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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Council Holds 99th Session in Cairo

Iraqi Foreign Minister Arrives

NC1704163793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1549 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf arrived in Cairo this afternoon from Amman to chair his country's delegation to the Arab League's 99th session, scheduled to meet in Cairo tomorrow at the foreign ministers level. In an arrival statement, al-Sahhaf stressed that Iraq is ready to talk with any Arab country to serve the Arab nation's interests and issues.

Responding to a question on Egyptian workers in Iraq, al-Sahhaf said the blockade on Iraq must first be lifted so that it can pay workers. He was received on arrival in Cairo by Sami Thabit, the Arab League's director of protocol and Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League.

Jordan's Abu-Jabir To Participate

NC1704190493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1823 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir arrived in Cairo from Damascus today to attend the Arab foreign ministers meeting, due to be held tomorrow at Arab League headquarters in Cairo.

Following his arrival, Abu-Jabir said that the talks held in Damascus were profound and ponderous [muta'aniyah]. The talks aimed to achieve a decision with bearing not just on the countries participating in the peace process but on the entire region, the Jordanian foreign minister added. He said matters need to be clarified before the upcoming round of negotiations.

Abu-Jabir said his country believes that the continuation of the peace process is a strategic necessity for Jordan as well as other sides.

He said all countries would lose if the negotiations were to fail. He noted that the decision to participate in the upcoming round of negotiations has been postponed.

Abu-Jabir said that the Arab League meeting will be a step forward with regard to Arab cooperation. Arab solidarity will be one of the points on the agenda of that meeting, he remarked. The Jordanian foreign minister added that the current Arab situation is unhealthy and cannot remain so.

Four More Ministers Arrive

NC1804070193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Cairo tonight to attend the Arab foreign ministers' meetings, which will open tomorrow at Arab League Headquarters. Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz also arrived in Cairo to attend the same meetings.

Upon his arrival, al-Shar' said that Arab parties need to consult with the United States, a cosponsor of the peace process, about setting a new date to resume the negotiations.

The Syrian foreign minister expressed his satisfaction with the assurances given by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher concerning the peace process and the removal of all the obstacles facing it. Al-Shar' said that the situation will be clarified further once a unanimous Arab decision to resume the negotiations is made. He pointed out that the U.S. side will examine some important demands that the Palestinians have made.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 2226 GMT on 17 April reports: "Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih arrived in Cairo tonight from Morocco to attend the Arab foreign ministers' meetings which will open tomorrow in Cairo. In an arrival statement, the Sudanese minister called for clearing the Arab atmosphere and establishing firm ground for Arab solidarity."]

Syria's al-Shar' on Christopher

JN1804065093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Cairo last night to take part in the meetings of the 99th ordinary session of the Arab League Council, due to begin at the League's general secretariat today. Upon arrival at Cairo airport, Faruq al-Shar' was welcomed by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League; 'Adnan 'Imran, assistant secretary general of the Arab League; Dr. 'Isa Darwish, the Syrian ambassador in Cairo; and the Embassy staff.

Responding to reporters' questions following his arrival, al- Shar' commented on the content of the telephone conversation that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held with him. He said: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher spoke to me on the telephone and we discussed the obstacles hampering the resumption of the peace process on the scheduled date. We also exchanged views on what can be done to overcome these obstacles in order to resume the peace talks. Al-Shar' added: It was clear that it is difficult to be committed to the 20 April date. More time is needed. This is agreed among the meeting Arab parties. Of course, there must

be consultation with the United States, being the sponsor of the talks, so that an agreement can be reached on a new date.

Al-Shar' added: Naturally, I was satisfied with the assurances I received from Mr. Christopher concerning the peace process, the full-partner role for all parties to the peace process, and the terms of reference of the peace talks. I was also satisfied with the assurances I heard about the steps the United States and Israel will take regarding the six points that the Palestinian side has raised with Secretary Christopher. We have agreed to remain in touch. I have acquainted my Arab counterparts with the contents of Secretary Christopher's telephone conversation.

Asked what is required from the Americans, al-Shar' said: Matters will be further specified when a unified Arab position is taken regarding the resumption of the peace talks. Then, the Americans will declare some important matters concerning the U.S. position vis-a-vis certain points that the Palestinian brothers have asked for.

Asked about the possibility of the Arab parties to the peace process deciding to go to the talks without the Palestinians, al- Shar' said: What is important in the consultations is to emerge with a unified position and to avoid any unilateral moves by any Arab party. At any rate, the Arab parties to the peace process will hold their concluding session in Damascus on 19 April to make a decision regarding the resumption of the talks and the new date they will propose to the two cosponsors. We also expect a statement to be issued at the conclusion of the meeting explaining our overall consultations during the past and current meetings and the outcome of the contacts and consultations which will be held by next Monday.

Iraqi Justice Minister Arrives

NC1904080493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—Iraqi Justice Minister Shabib lazim al-Maliki and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit of several days. He said upon arrival that during his visit he will participate in the meetings of the Arab Justice Ministers Executive Council, scheduled to begin tomorrow. He noted that he also will take part in the Arab Justice Ministers Council's three-day meetings, due to begin Thursday. He said that the Iraqi delegation is carrying proposals on updating judicial procedures, using modern equipment, and standardizing some Arab legislation.

PLO's Qaddumi Visits

NC1804122093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi arrived in Cairo this afternoon at the head of a large delegation on a several days' visit to Egypt. During this visit, Qaddumi will attend the meetings of the 99th regular session of the Arab League Council, which began this morning.

Coordinating Meeting Held

LD1904135893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Yesterday, Mr Habib Ben Yahia, minister of foreign affairs, presided over a coordinating meeting with the chairmen of the Arab Maghreb Union delegations to the 99th session of the Arab League Council in Cairo. The meeting included a review of the most important points of the agenda of the Council meeting.

Furthermore, Mr Habib Ben Yahia held a meeting with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar'. They discussed in particular the results of the Damascus frontline countries' meeting.

He also held talks with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, about the major Arab and Islamic issues.

Also on the sidelines of the Arab League Council meeting, the foreign minister held contacts with a number of his Arab opposite numbers.

Session Opens

NC1804113593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—The Arab League Council's 99th session resumed this morning at the foreign ministers level at Arab League Headquarters, chaired by Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali. Morocco is the president of the current session. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid was present.

The Arab League Council's permanent delegates participated in the opening of the 99th ordinary session on 30 March. They decided to postpone discussion of the agenda—which contains 50 topics including the peace process, deportees, and the situation in the occupied Arab territories—until today for a meeting at the foreign ministers level.

The Council will discuss Iraq's recent request for its help in lifting the economic sanctions imposed against it.

The participants opened the session by observing one minute of silence to mourn the death of Turkish President Turgut Ozal.

Addressing the opening session, Filali thanked Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa for his work during the Council's previous session. He noted the challenges facing the Arab nation, including the peace process and the Jerusalem issue, and emphasized that a just and comprehensive peace can be achieved according to international resolutions. He called for Arab participation in forming the new world order in view of its geographical position. He also called for revising the Arab League Charter to suit the international situation and noted that

today's meeting comes in the context of consultations, reconsiderations, and preparations for a new phase.

He pointed out that numerous obstacles still loom on the horizon despite the Arabs' sincere desire to advance the peace process. He said that the next round of peace negotiations will serve as a new touchstone for determining the international community's seriousness in cooperating to solve a problem that has been troubling the world for 50 years.

He asked Arab countries and the Arab League to fully support the Arab side to the peace negotiations and to show everyone that the Arab world stands behind it.

Addressing the Council, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the issue of a comprehensive and just peace in our region tops the priorities of the Arab League and its member states. He pointed out that the Arab countries want to pursue the peace process to attain a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in the Golan Heights, south Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.

'Abd-al-Majid said the Israeli Government's escalation of acts and methods of violence in the occupied territories, its continued defiance of international laws and resolutions, and its failure to implement Resolution 799 on returning the deportees are obstructing the peace process.

The Arab League head said that the Gulf crisis continues to constitute the substance of the current Arab dilemma, stressing the need for the release of the prisoners and detainees in Iraq. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid reiterated the Arab countries' desire to preserve the independence and unity of the Iraqi people and their sovereignty on their national soil. He called for an end to these people's sufferings within the framework of commitment to UN principles and Arab and international resolutions.

Touching on the Libyan-Western crisis, the Arab League chief said that the situation is still critical and extremely grave and requires strenuous efforts to achieve the solution sought by Libya and all other concerned parties. He maintained that Libya has demonstrated flexibility for the sake of achieving a peaceful and satisfactory settlement of this problem.

Alluding to the Somali problem, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed the hope that a transitional administrative political system will be established that would pave the way for laying down firm foundations under UN auspices and in cooperation with the Arab League, the Organization of African Unity, the Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Horn of Africa Permanent Committee.

The Arab League secretary general called for adopting all possible means to stop the ethnic cleansing policy in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to force Bosnia's Serbians and the new Yugoslavia to abide by UN resolutions and human rights principles.

He called on the Arab countries to form an Arab economic bloc capable of competing with the world's economic groups and of ensuring Arab capabilities to advance their economic integration.

The 30-minute opening session was then adjourned. This was followed by a closed session confined to delegation heads.

Al-Shar', al-Husayni Discuss Talks

NC1904104893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1036 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met today with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, who arrived here earlier today. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Arab League Council meetings. During the meeting, the two officials exchanged views on the upcoming round of peace talks.

Saudi Foreign Minister Comments

LD1904203493 Riyadh SPA in English 1958 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, April 19, SPA—Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stated on Monday that the Arab League Ministerial Council had probed several political and economic issues in its 99th session.

Speaking to reporters at Cairo International Airport prior to his departure on Monday, Prince Sa'ud pointed to the Saudi monarch's decision to bolster the Jerusalem Fund.

He expressed hope that the contributions of Arab and Islamic states participating in this fund would increase and pointed to the delicacy of the issue of Jerusalem in the upcoming stage.

He said the custodian of the two holy mosques took this step out of his understanding of the problems facing the people of Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Secretary Calls Talks 'Positive'

NC1904164393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said the discussions that took place during the Arab League ministerial council meetings were positive and constructive, adding that the council discussed important topics that require coordination and understanding.

At a news conference held today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said several attempts were made to bridge the gap in the various viewpoints, adding that some problems remain unsolved.

He said the council meetings dealt with several topics, including Libya's crisis with the West. The seven-member committee concerned with the crisis met and

was briefed on the outcome of 'Abd-al- Majid's contacts at the Security Council. The committee members discussed the future steps to be taken regarding the crisis.

The Arab League chief called for coordination and activity to reach a peaceful resolution of the Libyan-Western crisis and to avoid escalation and tension.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab League council discussed the Palestinian issue and the peace process. He said the Arab League places great importance on the continuation of the peace process and that a decision on participation will be made at the cordon states Damascus meeting.

He also said the Arab League council decided to form a political committee on waters due to the subject's importance. He emphasized that Arab water security is important and requires political attention and security measures. He said a study is being carried out on the subject.

He also discussed the application of the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros to join the Arab League, saying that it was studied in depth. A decision was made to undertake a comprehensive legal study of the application, which will be discussed at the next ministerial council meeting.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the council also discussed the situation in Somalia and the reconciliation attempts there.

He also discussed clearing the Arab atmosphere, noting that he sent messages to Arab kings and presidents on 22 March on the anniversary of the Arab League foundation with a number of ideas in this connection. He indicated that he had received some positive responses. He did not disclose the ideas contained in these messages, however. 'Abd-al-Majid said discussions were held at a high level of responsibility, which indicates a strong Arab desire to contain problems.

'Abd-al-Majid said the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees in Iraq was discussed. Constant contacts are held with the parties involved and the Red Cross to resolve this humanitarian issue. He stressed that the Arab League will continue its endeavors on this issue.

Al-Shar' on Cairo, Damascus Meetings

NC1904120193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1147 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' has stated that all the Arab delegations participating in the Damascus meetings will go to the Syrian capital today to hold a meeting among the Arab parties involved in the peace process.

He said: We expect the final statement on the Damascus meetings to be issued tonight or tomorrow morning. He added: We are seeking to resume the peace process in a suitable atmosphere free of the obstacles hampering it.

Al-Shar' noted that the Jordanian and Lebanese foreign ministers and the Palestinian delegation will leave for Damascus later today for deliberations and consultations on developments resulting from recent contacts. He expressed hope that the meeting will produce results that will stress the desire to maintain the united Arab stand, for which there is no alternative.

In reply to a question, the Syrian foreign minister denied having any U.S. contacts during his stay in Cairo.

Al-Shar' is in Cairo to attend the Arab League Council meetings, which began yesterday.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Head Rejects Security Council Tactics on Bosnia

LD1804015193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2350 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 17 Apr (SPA)—Dr. Hamed Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], said that the resolution that the UN Security Council passed this morning on the situation prevailing in the town of Srebrenica was not proper and is not sufficient.

He expressed deep concern, great anxiety, and strong regret at the complacent attitude of the Security Council toward the continuous siege and the barbarous shelling by the Serb forces of the town of Srebrenica, which is about to fall.

He expressed strong regret because the Islamic group efforts at the United Nations in New York to stop the continuing Serb aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina remained ineffective because of inaction by a number of permanent Security Council members and because their method had hindered the taking of any effective measures to stop the extermination of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

He said that while scores of Bosnian villages are exposed to the barbarous Serb bombing, which wiped out thousands of Muslims, it is observed that the same countries have used the referendum in Russia as an excuse in order to prevent the Security Council from taking actions demanded by such a situation in order to preserve international peace and security.

He stressed that the Islamic world will not, in any way, accept such a disgraceful concept of international legitimacy and the role of the UN Security Council. [passage omitted]

He explained that the ICO, in compliance with the will of the vast majority of international community—as reflected by the UN General Assembly Resolution 121-47—calls without delay for the lifting of the harsh military embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina. Effective military measures under UN Security Council auspices should be adopted to stop the Serb aggression.

Palestinian Affairs

Final Decision on Talks Participation 'Within 48 Hours'

NC1904124693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi has stated that the Arabs have proposed deferring the peace negotiations for at least one week to discuss the Palestinian deportees issue and remove obstacles hampering the peace process.

He added that the Palestinian leadership will make a final decision on participating in the peace process within 48 hours. He noted that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will come to Cairo later today to explain the Palestinian stand and eliminate obstacles hampering resumption of the peace process.

Qaddumi demanded the return of all the deportees and the lifting of the blockade imposed against the occupied territories. He called on Israel to comply with the principles on which the peace process is based.

He noted that if Israel fails to eliminate these obstacles, it will be responsible for aborting the peace process.

Palestinians 'Pressured' by Arabs To Resume Talks

TA1904184693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 19 Apr 93 pp 1, 15

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Excerpts] Tunis—Informed Arab sources have said that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' conveyed to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher the consent of the Arab parties, except that of the Palestinian side, to attend the ninth round of the Middle East peace talks.

The sources added that al-Shar' requested from the U.S. secretary that the round be postponed for a few days in order to obtain Palestinian agreement to attend when the cordon states meetings resume in Damascus on Monday.

These sources pointed out that the Arab parties preferred that a statement about the meetings be issued without reference to the differences between the Arab parties and the Palestinian delegation over participation in the talks.

The sources said that the atmosphere at the Damascus meeting was the worst that Arab meetings had witnessed for a long time and that the Palestinian delegation was alone in its position calling for postponement. The delegation was subjected to intense pressure by the other parties, which tried to persuade it to change its position and agree to attend without any preconditions. [passage omitted]

These sources added that members of the Palestinian delegation were offended because their description of the Palestinian people's suffering and hardship failed to elicit the concern of those present and the Syrian foreign minister accused the delegation of exaggerating the deportee issue.

Moreover, the Palestinian delegation was threatened that its persistence on its stance would mean deviation from the Arab consensus and rejection of the peace process.

The sources added that hints were made that the Arab parties were ready to go to the talks alone if the Palestinian delegation refused to do so.

The Palestinian delegation was also accused of trying to impose its position on the meeting and that it deliberately announced its stance individually before the meeting in order to put the conferees before a fait accompli.

Many observers noted that the Syrian stance inside the meeting was resolute in favor of participation without preconditions. This is in contradiction of official Syrian statements and comments. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni: U.S. Agreed To Postpone Talks Until 25 Apr

TA1904153393 Jerusalem AL-USBU' AL-JADID in Arabic 18 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, has affirmed that the U.S. Administration agreed to postpone the ninth round of Middle East peace talks until 25 April.

Al-Husayni said the agreement was confirmed when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher contacted Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' who was in Damascus for a meeting with the foreign ministers of the Arab states involved in the negotiating process. Commenting on the U.S. proposal, al-Husayni said that the requirements of the negotiating process necessitated postponing the talks although one might wish otherwise. Current requisites, however, call for such a postponement. We hope that within days adequate efforts will be exerted toward convening the new round. I believe that it is possible to find a solution in five days of serious work.

Al-Husayni refused to consider this postponement as an achievement. He said: We did not wage a battle to demand this postponement, but to achieve certain demands.

Al-Husayni denied that he had requested from Molly Williamson, the U.S. Consul in Jerusalem, to postpone the talks, as reported by Reuter. He said: I stressed to Molly that there was a tendency in Damascus against going to Washington.

Denies Requesting Postponement

NC1904123593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the peace negotiations, has denied that he submitted a request to the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem that the negotiations be postponed. He said that it was a memorandum to clarify the obstacles hampering resumption of the negotiations.

In statements today, al-Husayni said it is the atmosphere surrounding the peace process which will lead to the postponement of the negotiations. He expressed hope that everyone will have enough time to eliminate all the obstacles and clarify the ambiguity surrounding certain procedures promised by Israel and the United States.

Al-Husayni said that some points have been explained, while others remain ambiguous and require clarification. He said: We will obtain a clear and complete stand within the next few hours.

Meanwhile, al-Husayni met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on the sidelines of the Arab League Council meetings.

Official Says Only 'Legitimate' Bodies Can Decide

JN2004080493 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Apr 93 pp 20, 16

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Taysir Khalid, member of the PLO Executive Committee and member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine's political desk, has said that a decision on participation in the ninth round of negotiations was made in Tunis on 18 April.

In a statement to reporters in Amman yesterday, Khalid said that Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, left the current Palestinian leadership meetings in Tunis and returned to Amman en route to Jerusalem after he announced that he would not take part in the next round.

Khalid added: Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, called on the delegation members to refuse to attend the next round before receiving a response to their demands. These demands include returning the deportees, reconsidering the negotiating framework and terms of reference of the peace process based on international legitimacy, and reconsidering Palestinian representation based on the PLO's right to represent its people at the negotiations on equal footing with the other parties.

He noted that the ten factions opposing the peace process will stage a general strike in the occupied Arab territories to announce immediate stands against participation before a response to the Palestinian delegation's demands.

Responding to a question, Khalid said: The decision on participation in the next round is the right of the PLO's legitimate bodies, especially the Executive Council. He added that it is also the right of the Palestinian people, the overwhelming majority of whom refuse to return to the negotiating table before an Israeli commitment to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799.

Khalid said: No one in the Palestinian leadership has the right to confiscate the role of the PLO Executive Council and to turn its back on the will of the Palestinian people. These Palestinian people reject the course of the negotiations and their unjust conditions. They also reject the formula for Palestinian representation, which denies the unity of the Palestinian people and their national rights.

The Executive Council member called on the masses in the occupied territories, refugee camps, and the diaspora to express their decisive condemnation of any decision to return to the negotiations that is not made by the PLO's legitimate bodies.

Ten Factions Issue Statement on Peace Talks

JN1904115393 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1007 GMT 19 Apr 93

["Political statement" issued by the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks; place and date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Political statement issued by the 10 Palestinian factions: The Central Command of the 10 Palestinian factions has met and reviewed current political developments on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. The review is in connection with the course of the negotiations taking place in Washington and the siege and collective punishments of the occupation against our people in the occupied territories, represented by the closing of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, their division into cantons, and their isolation in hopes of bridling Palestinian action rejecting the administrative self-rule conspiracy and the Madrid-Washington course. This happens at a time when our people's valiant intifadah is taking root. Along with it, revolutionary violence has turned into a constantly growing social phenomenon, which has inflicted heavy losses on the enemy soldiers and the herds of its settlers, and thrown the enemy into confusion, driving some of its symbols to call for unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

The Tunis leadership, however, is still resolved to pursue the bilateral and multilateral negotiations, in a manner detrimental to our cause and to the national unity of our people, which could end up obliterating the PLO and liquidating our inalienable national rights.

The U.S. Administration also continues its flagrant bias toward the Zionist enemy, by applying pressure and keeping the situation under its control to resume the negotiations of the ninth round in Washington and market the U.S.-Zionist bargain aiming at dividing and fragmenting Resolution 799 on the safe and immediate return of the deportees to their homeland and families.

Faced with these developments, the 10 factions assert the following:

While condemning the fascist, racist Zionist policy, the 10 factions extend greetings to our struggling Palestinian people in our occupied homeland. The 10 factions also hail the Palestinian people's heroic stand and the continuation and escalation of the brave intifadah. The factions also call on all forces of liberation and progress around the world to side with our people's just cause and to support the intifadah in the achievement of its aims.

The 10 forces also condemn the Tunis leadership and the so-called Palestinian delegation, as well as its engagement in the Madrid- Washington course. They further call for an immediate withdrawal from this liquidatory course, in response to the collective will of the Palestinian people that rejects this destructive course of action.

The 10 factions assert that the so-called Palestinian negotiating team does not represent our people. They also call for a referendum that includes all people inside and outside the territories and having recourse to their will.

The announcement on postponing the date of the ninth round of negotiations falls within the framework of maneuvering, and does not mean a change whatsoever in the positions of the negotiating delegation. Moreover, the announcement on Faysal al-Husayni's admittance to the negotiating team was made in accordance with U.S.-Zionist desires. The false attempts to peddle this process will not deceive our popular masses.

The 10 factions affirm that they will continue their struggle, relying on the capabilities of the masses of our great people and our Arab and Islamic nation to foil the conspiracy of administrative self-rule. The 10 factions also affirm their struggle against the policy of resettlement and deportation, which disavows our people's right to liberation, repatriation, and self-determination.

Greeting the deportees' splendid steadfastness in Marj al-Zuhur, the 10 Palestinian factions insist on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799—which provides for their collective and immediate return to their homeland and kinfolk—and they reject the partition and fragmentation of this resolution.

The 10 Palestinian factions view the circulation of reports that occupation forces may withdraw from the Gaza Strip as the outcome of the immense popular pressure and the heavy casualties among the enemy's ranks, and also as a sign that our people are struggling to defeat the occupation troops. Let the occupation be driven away from the homeland. Our people are capable of running their own affairs and establishing their national authority on any part of Palestine from which the occupiers are driven away.

The 10 Palestinian factions also stress the declaration of a general national strike in the occupied territories on 20 April 1993, stemming from their rejection of the Tunis leadership's continued participation in the current negotiations. An Arab and international political action plan on the popular and official levels has been approved to consolidate this national meeting and safeguard the Palestine question. The 10 factions studied ways to promote and consolidate this national meeting which expresses the interests of broad sectors of our popular masses. Long live the glorious intifadah. Glory and immortality to our martyrs.

[Signed] The 10 Palestinian factions

PLO Committee Member Demands Written Assurances

NC1904143093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani said the Palestinian side wants written assurances from the United States that UN Security Council resolutions—especially Resolutions 242 and 338—constitute the terms of reference for the peace negotiations, that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories, and a guarantee on the deportees' return. He said these assurances are necessary if the Palestinian delegation is to return to the negotiating table.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, al-Surani said the U.S. Administration has made many verbal promises on the peace process but has shown no commitment to implement them. He added that Israel and the United States have given themselves the right to interpret Security Council Resolution 799, which demands the immediate return of the deportees, and are doing so in accordance with Israeli interests.

PLO Considers Various Options on Peace Talks

TA1904163493 Jerusalem AL FAJR in English 19 Apr 93 p 4

[Editorial: "More Time, Assurances Required"]

[Text] Considerable work has been done to prepare for the ninth round of talks in Washington, D.C. The Clinton administration and the government of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak invested a lot of their time and efforts to narrow the gap, specifically between the Palestinians and Israelis. A package deal will be announced as soon as the Palestinian delegation declares itself ready to attend the talks.

The package contains American and Egyptian assurances, as well as steps by Israel. Some of the assurances mentioned in the press are Palestinian participation

from East Jerusalem in the talks, economic measures to shore up the economy of the occupied territories, amelioration of human rights, lifting the military closure of the territories, and most importantly, a timetable to return the expellees in a shorter period of time.

The 400-odd remaining expellees expressed their disapproval of the package deal in clear terms by demonstrating against the return to the talks before their immediate repatriation, as is specified in U.N. Security Resolution 799.

Allowing Palestinians from East Jerusalem to participate in the bilateral talks was seen as a positive step initially, but Israel immediately curbed this concession by cutting off Arab East Jerusalem from the rest of the occupied territories, thus formally announcing that East Jerusalem's fate is predetermined.

The Palestinian leadership—before it announces its intentions regarding participation in the talks this month—will take into consideration all these issues and many others. Besides the options of going or not going to Washington, other choices have been mentioned.

At the moment, the trends to go or not to go to the talks in the Palestinian camp are divided equally, with probably more public sentiment disfavoring participation at this stage. The other alternatives being discussed are a delay in the start of the talks or in Palestinian participation until more favorable terms are negotiated concerning the expellees and the removal of the closure order.

Some are suggesting a trimmed delegation to participate, to express the Palestinians' continued support of the peace process while simultaneously protesting the Israelis' measures of expulsion and military closure. Only when these measures are lifted would the Palestinian delegation resume its full participation.

The official Palestinian announcement will come from the PLO headquarters in Tunis within days. The decision, whatever it may be, will come after deep discussion but will ultimately take into consideration the best interests of the Palestinian people.

The Palestinians should not forget that the main goal of the negotiations is to end the occupation. This is the only way to achieve real peace and permanently end Israeli measures violating our human rights.

Israel Reportedly Agrees To Repatriate More Deportees

TA1904154293 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] AL-MANAR has learned that the Israeli Government has agreed to repatriate 50 old-time deportees within the framework of the "gestures" that it had promised to take for the success of the efforts to resume the negotiations with the participation of all the parties concerned. It has been learned that 'Abd-al-Jawad Salih, former mayor of al-Birah, Dr. Hanna Nasir, Alfred Tubasi, and Mustafa Milhim are among the deportees whom Israel has agreed to repatriate. Initially, Israel had agreed to return 30 deportees but has raised that number to 50.

Jibril Addresses Rally on PFLP-GC Anniversary

JN1704120193 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Speech by Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, at a speech rally marking the 28th anniversary of the PFLP-GC's establishment and held at al-Yarmuk refugee camp in Damascus on 16 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Let us ask: What have we achieved in the Palestinian arena over the past 28 years? Let us see where we succeeded and where we made mistakes. I ask you simple questions. Have you heard about a people's revolution that lasted for 28 years and was not able to realize the aim of national unity? A few moments ago, Brother al-Musawi, the mujahid brother in Hizballah asked: How can we regard your unity, O 10 factions?

We ask: Who was responsible for failing to carry out national unity? Was it the responsibility of foreign factors and that, as they claim, the external Arab and international interference prevented Palestinian national unity? The people of Vietnam first triumphed over themselves when they united themselves. Then they triumphed over France and then over the United States. Who is responsible for the failure of national unity? We have only witnessed more fragmentation, more division. Who was responsible? Was it external forces?

We bravely say without any further preamble, that the Tunis [PLO] leadership has never been serious in effecting national unity but has been rejecting all the programs of Palestinian national unity. Its path was monopoly and hegemony. All right- thinking men testify that this leadership's monopoly and hegemony was not because it made sacrifices and cared to implement the program of Palestine liberation but because of Arab and international funds and the political and media support given to it. Whenever this Tunis leadership failed to consolidate its monopoly and hegemony, it resorted to fragmenting the Palestinian body and to creating and encouraging division. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, the enemies of this nation have a strategy. But there are two bright spots: The intifadah and the Islamic and nationalist resistance in southern Lebanon. Besides, there are nationalist Arab and Islamic regimes: Libya, Syria, Iran. The objective of America, Israel, and the Arab reactionary regimes is to cloud over those two spots and undermine those regimes. They are playing tricks and employing all resources and means. They know that no Arab decision has been made to curb or contain the intifadah in Palestine. This is because the intifadah is outside their reach. They also know that

President Hafiz al-Asad cannot tamper with the brave resistance in southern Lebanon. Rather, he will support it in the face of daily pressure put on Syria. After the Gulf war, they went to Madrid and Washington. Instead of benefiting from this heroic intifadah, they went to Madrid and Washington to implement and accept administrative self-rule. They have discarded their credit—their entire people and entire Arab and Islamic nation—and went to Madrid and Washington to discuss a self-rule. Yesterday, I was contacted by some members of the Tunis [Palestinian] delegation. They asked me not to speak harshly today. However, brothers and sisters, things must be made clear. You must know well what is taking place. There is a conspiracy against the intifadah, and against the nationalist and Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon. It is a conspiracy aimed at besieging Syria, Libya, and Iran, and at labeling them as terrorists and sponsors of terrorism.

The United States tells us that it is the sponsor of Madrid and Washington and that it is an impartial judge. I, and each one of you, ask: Is America an impartial judge? I ask brother Sa'id [Hammadi—representative of Syria's Arab Socialist Ba'th Party]: Is there a just peace with the current balance of power? Can America, which arms the Jews to the teeth, feeds them, and brings them from Russia, Ethiopia, and from all over the world to settle in the Golan Heights and in Palestine, be an impartial judge? We are fed up with the talk about double standards and similar terms. Why do we not educate our people and tell them that the United States is the first enemy and that Israel is the second enemy? How do we accept the United States being the sponsor of such conferences? [passage omitted]

We tell those in Tunis and the negotiating team, some of whom are present in Damascus now: We hope that you will not be stupid. Because if you are, our people will not forgive you. Do not expect your current drive to be like your past experiences when you frequently stabbed this revolution. I tell them, and Faysal al- Husayni in particular, who has been brought by the Israelis and sponsored by the Americans: Do you want to be like French General Petain, who made a peace treaty with the Nazis? Who are you to behave like Gen. Petain? Gen. Petain had a history, a heritage, etcetera. If you are the son of 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Husayni, will you betray the homeland. The homeland is greater than you, 'Abd-al- Qadir, and all people. [applause] Do you want to use the blood of 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Husayni as a cover to betray this homeland? I advise them not to be like Shawar, the ruler of Egypt, who cooperated with the Crusaders to confront Nur-al-Din Zinki when he was working to unify Egypt and Syria. We hope that they will understand their people in the diaspora and inside the homeland. They have not been legitimized by their people. If they want democratic legitimacy, let them ask their American masters to hold elections for the Palestinians in the diaspora and inside the homeland. Then, we will see whether our people inside and outside the homeland will chose them as their leaders or not. Our advice to them: Return to yourselves. We, the 10 factions, do not consider ourselves an alternative to the PLO, on which you are capitalizing. For the sake of the blood of the tens of thousands of martyrs in our contemporary revolution and the tens of thousands of martyrs who fell over the past 70 years, we are addressing ourselves to the honorable ones in our arena. We know that not all those in Tunis are bad. No, we know that among them there are people who felt the dilemma, saw the conspiracy, and did not want to be recorded as traitors. They are contacting us and we are coordinating with them. Even this delegation which arrived here includes nationalist people. I, and perhaps Khalid al-Fahum, have been informed that a member of the delegation said that he would declare here from the Meridien Hotel his resignation from the PLO if they insist on going to Washington. [applause] We ask all the nationalists and our brothers in the 10 groups to come together for an open dialogue. However, the basis of this dialogue must be rejecting the conspiracy of administrative rule and the Washington farce. Such a dialogue can be held wherever you want; here in Syria, in Libya, Iran, in Sudan, or anywhere. We are ready. We are not advocates of sedition or disarray. A short while ago I elaborated on national unity.

At the conclusion of my speech, we in this proud country—Syria—always say that President Hafiz al-Asad has inherited the glorious Syrian people's militant heritage—as displayed in the Maysalun battle against the French, the October 1973 war, and the intifadah. We are certain that President Hafiz al-Asad is the best to be trusted with this militant heritage. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Nine Policemen Killed in M'sila Ambush

LD1804101693 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] There has been a new tragedy in Algeria. Nine policemen have been killed in an ambush at M'sila. Five died immediately, and the other four died later in hospital as a result of their very serious injuries. The attackers took flight. This is the most deadly attacks against the security forces since the beginning of the year.

Four 'Terrorists' Killed in Algiers Area

LD1904104393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] It was learned from security authorities of Algiers Province that three terrorists were killed at 0130 today at Sidi Medjber, formerly known as Frivalent, in the capital. During this operation, security services recovered three automatic pistols.

The same source also stated that another terrorist was killed at 0700 at Oued Ouchaih district, Badjarah municipality. An automatic pistol in his possession was recovered.

Security Forces Shoot Former FLN Party Leader

LD1904204593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Amar Leulmi, mufti of the Armed Islamic Movement [leader of the former National Liberation Front], was killed by the security forces in Khemis El Khechna in Boumerdes region on 6 April. This was mentioned in a statement of the national gendarmerie. Amar Leulmi was killed along with three terrorists in Chareb village while in possession of a forged identity card, as shown by the documents found in his possession. He had in his possession a student card bearing the name Belakhdar Mohamed from (Bellevue) in Algiers.

Statement Expresses Solidarity With Bosnian Muslims

LD1804201393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry this evening issued a statement in light of the serious escalation in Srebrenica in which it expresses its strong condemnation of what is happening in the town and also voices great concern over the tragic events.

The statement says that Algeria bows out of respect and humility for the souls of the victims of the massacres committed by the Serbian forces against Muslims. Once again it strongly denounces these massacres which have been carried out in the name of ethnic cleansing.

These tragic developments confirm once again that the Serbs are determined to realize their expansonist objectives by ignoring all solutions aimed at making Bosnia a unified state which enjoying sovereignty and independence.

Algeria considers that the escalation of the war of extermination in Bosnia-Herzegovina of necessity demands that the UN Security Council to approve suitable measures to put a final stop to the tragedy through which the Muslim people in Bosnia-Herzegovina are living.

Algeria, which is faithful to its traditions of honor, justice, and peace cannot remain silent in front of the unbearable savagery that has been courageously and honorably endured by the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. These people have the right to demand that their situation be rectified before history and that they be allowed the necessary means to guarantee their right of legitimate self-defense.

Algeria, the statement goes on, reaffirms its support for the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina in defending its sovereignty and the unity of its territory and the independence of Bosnia- Herzegovina. The statement stresses complete solidarity with that government.

Libyans Arrested in Adrar Province

LD1804134293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Regarding the field of security, a group of people was arrested in Bechar accused of instigating violence and harming the state security. For more details on this operation, let us listen to a despatch from Bechar station.

Within the framework of their fight against terrorism, security authorities from Adrar Province have put an end to the activities of a group of people composed of four persons: two Algerian students who live in Ouargla, while the other two, aged 22 and 28, hold Libyan citizenship.

This operation took place on 10 April, when the group was apprehended by Adrar security authorities who found in its possession several leaflets instigating people to harm state security.

Consequently, the group was brought before the prosecutor general of Adrar court to investigate the matter.

HSC Resumes Dialogue With Political Parties

LD1904202493 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] A delegation of the Higher State Council [HSC], led by Tedjani Haddam, had a meeting today at the presidential office with the first group of parties within the framework of resuming the dialogue started by the HSC with political parties and organizations and national figures. This meeting included the Social Liberal Party, The Arab Islamic Union, and the National Democratic Rally. During the meeting the points listed in the agenda proposed by the HSC were discussed.

The parties mentioned were unanimous in condemning terrorism and the need to strengthen the state authority in order to reinstitute public security. The parties submitted proposals pertaining to the transitional period, revision of the constitution, and broadening the membership and authority of the National Consultative Council.

Egypt

Assistant Foreign Minister Leaves for Damascus

NC1904131593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Ambassador Ihab Muqbil, the assistant foreign minister, left Cairo for Damascus this afternoon to attend the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries involved in the Middle East crisis. The meetings are scheduled to begin this evening to decide the Arab stand on the question of participation in the next round of the peace talks.

Musa Sees Imminent Advancement of Peace Process

NC1904194493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said this evening that Egypt is going all-out to have the peace talks resumed and to remove obstacles facing them.

These issues were discussed today with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat in the presence of the foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, he said.

He said some developments to advance the peace process and resume the negotiations are expected in the next few hours.

Musa said he is following the developments. If I am needed in Damascus, he explained, I will go. He noted that he sent Assistant Foreign Minister Ihab Muqbil to Damascus to participate in the meetings of the foreign ministers of the five countries involved in the Middle East crisis.

Musa on U.S. Promise of 'Specific Steps'

NC2004062193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt recently tried to improve conditions in the occupied Arab territories and to prevent the situation from worsening, while ensuring the resumption of the peace talks. The foreign minister told our radio correspondent that Egypt's contacts with the parties concerned with Middle East peace, particularly President Mubarak's talks during his European and U.S. tour, emphasized that negotiations form the framework suitable for achieving results that could not otherwise be reached away from the negotiating table. He said Egypt believes it is important to resume the negotiating process and that the coming round of bilateral peace talks must bring about tangible progress, noting that the bad situation in the occupied territories, the closure of the West Bank and Gaza, and other problems, such as the deportees issue, were behind the postponement of the peace talks.

Musa said this is not the first time the talks have been postponed. They were postponed once before at Israel's request, he added, noting that the issue is simply a change in the starting date of the negotiations, something that is not new and is possible. The postponement, he stated, is for a week. Musa emphasized that the next round of negotiations will examine the question of land for peace, but not part of the land for peace, so that a just and balanced settlement can be reached. He said the U.S. Administration had promised to announce specific steps it would undertake should the peace process resume. These steps, he added, will be made public when all the parties agree to resume the negotiations.

The foreign minister added that if Israel does not wish to sign the agreement on nuclear nonproliferation, we will not sign the agreement on nuclear weapons [as heard; Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0658 GMT on 20 April reports: "On Israel's failure to sign the agreement banning the proliferation of nuclear weapons, Musa said that if Israel does not wish to sign, we will not sign the agreement on the nonproliferation of chemical weapons."]. He added: There must be a clear-cut formula to set up a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. He said no real stability or peace could be achieved unless the issue of weapons of mass destruction is settled.

Musa, Sudanese Counterpart Meet 19 Apr

NC2004064893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih this evening.

After the 75-minute meeting, Musa said all aspects of Arab and Egyptian-Sudanese relations were discussed. The meeting was frank, and we discussed all the negative elements that exist, he said.

Musa said that Abu-Salih explained Sudanese policy and categorically denied a statement attributed to him that Egypt had prevented oil shipments heading for Sudan from transiting through the Suez Canal. He said Abu-Salih also denied numerous reports about certain Sudanese contacts or alliances.

Musa said his talks with his Sudanese counterpart were based upon the fact that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are now tense and that the Arab world is not in very good shape. He said the discussions were held with this in mind.

The foreign minister stressed that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are historically strong and must remain close.

For relations to return to their normal status, Musa added, we need to clear certain blemishes. A number of policies must be changed and developed, and certain practices must be stopped by a mutual desire to promote positive relations between the two countries.

Abu-Salih said: "Sudanese-Egyptian relations are not in good shape, and we believe they must return to normal and be close."

He said his meeting with Musa marks the beginning of a dialogue, and he expressed optimism about this.

On ties between the two countries, Abu-Salih said: We believe that a spirit of brotherhood must always exist so that any problem or dispute can be solved through negotiation. He said the Sudanese- Egyptian relationship is one of the oldest in the world.

The two sides need to take steps to improve relations, he said, urging the media to play a positive role and avoid provocation.

The Sudanese foreign minister said that violence should not be used to address problems between the two countries. He categorically denied reports that (?Iran) is using a Sudanese port on the Red Sea, that there are training camps for terrorists in Sudan, or that Egypt prevented the arrival of oil in Sudan.

Abu-Salih said Sudan's relations with Iran are normal bilateral relations that must be seen in their proper perpsective.

On the Hala'ib issue, Abu-Salih said: "The point in question is not who has the right to the region. We are talking about methodology, and we only want the issue to be handled in a fraternal manner."

Concluding his statement, Abu-Salih said his meeting with Musa today will take relations between the two countries safely ashore.

Musa Carries Mubarak Message to Jordanian King

NC2004112893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1003 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo this morning for Jordan on a visit of a few hours during which he will deliver a message to King Husayn of Jordan from President Husni Mubarak. Musa will also hold talks on ways to promote Egyptian-Jordanian relations and on Arab affairs. Musa's visit is the first by an Egyptian official to Jordan at this level since the Gulf war.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir accompanied Minister Musa on his return from Damascus on Saturday to attend the 99th session of the Arab League Ministerial Council.

Israeli Environment Minister Denies Nuclear Leak

NC2004052593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2154 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Israeli Environmental Protection Minister Yosi Sarid and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit of several days to Egypt at the invitation of Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development.

He said upon arrival that he will discuss a number of issues related to the environment in both countries and to the search for solutions to the region's environmental problems within the framework of Egyptian-Israeli cooperation.

Asked about radiation leakage from the Demona reactor, the Israeli minister said he would like to reassure the Egyptian public, as he had reassured the Israeli public, that there was no leak.

On the threats posed by such nuclear reactors and their effect on the environment, he said: Let us hope peace will be achieved soon. Then there will be no need for such things and the Middle East will have another shape.

Mubarak, CIA Chief Discuss Iran's Role in Extremism

JN2004055293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Official sources in Washington have announced that CIA Director James Woolsey visited Egypt this week and met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Mubarak and Woolsey discussed Iran's role in supporting Islamic extremist movements in the region. These sources pointed out that the U.S. official also visited a number of Middle East and European states, including Israel and Italy, and that the Egyptian authorities briefed him on the growing influence of extremists in the Middle East by virtue of military and financial aid from Tehran.

Egypt accuses Iran, in particular, of training Islamic extremists who seek to overthrow the Egyptian regime by launching a terrorist campaign. This issue was discussed in the meeting held between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Washington last week.

Daily Questions 'Vehement Campaign' Against Iran

NC2004093193 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Apr 93 p 2

[From the "Pulses" column by Dr. Nu'man Jum'ah]

[Excerpts] Egypt's foreign relations should be characterized by self-restraint and the suppression of emotions and should not be led by feelings. These relations should not be handled through violent and angry statements or angry media. Foreign policies should not be created by

one individual, even if he is the president of the state. These policies should be the result of studies, thinking, and planning and should be formulated by departments and establishments that have the data, the knowledge, and the expertise. Foreign relations affect the state's supreme, major interests. They also affect the state's external and internal security and its economic and commercial interests. Egypt, like other countries, needs to export its products and surplus manpower and to import, obtain loans, and so on. [passage omitted]

Calm diplomacy and self-restraint become necessary when there are problems between two or more countries, because there is no difficulty in having calm and cordial dealings when there are good relations. But when there are differences, disputes, conflicts, and crises, the need arises for calm and practiced diplomacy and also for balanced diplomatic activity. Contacts are then held followed by statements and declarations. Undeclared diplomacy continues backstage. [passage omitted]

This is the case even between warring and estranged countries. For example, contacts between the United States and Iraq did not stop even during the Gulf war. There was a line that neither of the sides could cross. Iraq did not use its lethal weapons and the United States did not try to occupy Baghdad and bring down its president.

President Anwar al-Sadat and Husni Mubarak made strenuous efforts to improve Egypt's relations with the West, specifically the United States, and to restore good relations with Arab and Islamic countries. This resulted in the accord with Saudi Arabia after the Yemen war and with all the Arab countries after the Camp David agreements. Egypt improved its relations with Libya and other countries.

So what is happening now? Why is President Mubarak launching this vehement campaign against Iran? Why is he inciting the world against it on the basis that it is a terrorist country and will have nuclear weapons?

Is it logical for us to improve our relations with terrorist and aggressive Israel and accept its possession of nuclear weapons and to be angry because an Islamic state possesses such weapons although it is considered to be one of us, not against us, in the world nuclear balance?

Iran is a major Middle Eastern country with a noble people. We are linked with it by historic ties. The United States is hostile to it because it is concerned about Israel and oil prices.

We should not participate in another war like the Gulf war. Shame on us if we kill Muslims in Iran. Shame on us if we help to occupy Iran's sources of oil. Shame on us if we help to destroy Iran's nuclear weapons, because these weapons are the factor that balances Israel's nuclear arsenal.

Iran might have erred in word or deed or both, but greater Egypt does not forget its Arab and Islamic role. It does not forget that the Arab and Islamic world is its real support and that its lasting enemy is Zionism, which has uprooted the Palestinian people from its land, kills and destroys in south Lebanon, the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza, and has limitless ambitions.

Egypt should resort to calm, carefully considered, and persistent diplomacy. It has experts in this field, such as Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Ashraf Ghurbal, al-Ridi, Mustafa Khalil, and other prominent Egyptians. Here, I restrict myself to naming men in the current regime.

Let me reiterate that enmity is with the Westerners and Zionism. Our support and love comes from our twin, Sudan, and from the brothers, that is the Arabs, and from our brothers the Muslims.

Papers Welcome Inter-Arab Reconciliation Call

NC2004072593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 20 Apr 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on inter-Arab reconciliation, AL-AHRAM notes the Arab foreign ministers' decision to refer the call for Arab reconciliation and accord to Arab leaders, kings, and presidents to take the measures they deem necessary to promptly prepare the Arab atmosphere to secure reconciliation.

Under the headline: "The Seriousness of Reconciliation Is a Step Forward," AL-JUMHURIYAH's editorial comments on the same topic. The paper notes: Some parties rejected the call for reconciliation and others called for postponing the issue, which is justified and acceptable considering the serious events that have occurred in the Gulf the consequences of which still constitute the core of the current Arab impasse. Raising the issue of reconciliation for debate, dialogue, and even for opposition is a positive step that must be followed by other steps that could help to clear the atmosphere and end the deterioration in Arab affairs.

U.S. Actions on 'Abd-al-Rahman Criticized

NC1704084093 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 10 Apr 93 pp 1,8

[Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah article: "The Other Face of the United States]

[Excerpts] I am still perplexed and unable to explain the U.S. stand on the desperate terrorist actions carried out in Egypt by an extremist and hired minority that is willing to do anything and everything against the public interest. My perplexity increased when I recently visited the United States because of the unbelievable contradiction between what the U.S. administration says and what it does and has been doing against us for a long time.

The U.S. administration clearly welcomed President Husni Mubarak from the first moment he arrived in Washington. [passage omitted]

Optimism and confidence about U.S.-Egyptian cooperation increased due to the warm welcome given the president, the statements made by U.S. spokesmen and Senate members, and the reaction of the official delegation accompanying President Mubarak during his short visit to the United States.

Many senior U.S. correspondents—from press, radio, and television—requested and insisted on meeting and interviewing President Mubarak, both before and after his meeting with President Bill Clinton. Due to President Mubarak's full schedule, officials in charge of the "itinerary" were forced to agree to "some" but not "all" these requests.

The president did in fact make a number of press and television interviews with major U.S. newspapers and television networks to the extent that we had to switch between channels that were simultaneously broadcasting the president's interviews.

This unusual interest in President Husni Mubarak's recent visit added to my perplexity and inability to understand this unprecedented contradiction on the part of the U.S. media. Before President Mubarak's visit, the media devoted their pages and screens to highlighting terrorist operations witnessed by Egypt in the past few weeks. They did so in such an exaggerated way that it conflicted with the most basic principles of accuracy and truth.

Writers in their sick and fertile imaginations devoted pages and pages to convince readers that Egypt has fallen into an abyss of terrorism and crime and that the Egyptian regime is tottering. U.S. television networks devoted many precious minutes to spotlight a blind shaykh called 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, a man unknown in Egypt except to a very few who heard of his involvement in the crime of the assassination of late President Anwar al-Sadat and then heard that he was acquitted of this crime. [passage omitted]

U.S. media—press, radio, and television—compared this unknown person to Iran's "Khomeyni" who seized power after the shah. The media claimed that 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman enjoys widespread support among all sectors and classes of the Egyptian people, and that this gives him the right to do what Khomeyni did in Iran—return to Egypt as a ruler in the name of Islam which has nothing to do with him?!

As I said, this is an odd stand on the part of the U.S. media. 'Abd-al-Rahman was first given a visa to enter the United States and allowed to talk and preach in mosques. Then it was admitted that he would have earned the right to political asylum in the United States had he not lied when he said that he had never married an Egyptian woman, that is before he married an American woman. It is known that the U.S. Constitution does not permit anyone who has the right of residence to practice polygamy.

The same U.S. media that are exaggerating the desperate criminal acts in Egypt and are trying to turn an idol into a god, are the same ones who pursued Egypt's ambassador in Washington, Ahmad Mahir, in the hope that he might arrange for them to meet with President Mubarak and conduct interviews with him during his four day visit to the United States!

No one knows the reason for this eagerness to hold interviews with a state president when those requesting the interviews previously showed no qualms about acclaiming this blind shaykh, a person unknown to anyone in Egypt, but who found in this acclaim a great opportunity to turn from a refugee and a loot seeker in a country to which he does not belong into a "leader" and a "savior" of a people that do not know him. Even those who know him mock him and deride his shallowness, vile language, and insolence.

Despite this strange contradiction that characterized the U.S. media before and during Mubarak's visit, the president agreed to conduct a number of press and television interviews with the media's senior representatives. Mubarak was not unaware of this odd and strange position taken by the U.S. media which exaggerates terrorist incidents inside Egypt and tries to turn a nobody into a divine messenger charged with saving Muslims on all five continents. Mubarak saw that it was useful to talk to the media with his usual frankness in the hope that they will realize the mistakes they have made which diverted them from the truth. [passage omitted]

Mubarak's statements and interviews created a bombshell in U.S. political and media circles. The president was eloquent and frank, and he exposed all the secrets of the international terrorism which has not been and will not be content to remain in small countries but has targeted the major ones, including the United States itself! The U.S. administration was deeply annoyed by what President Mubarak said in his press and television interviews showing the extent of U.S. laxity and negligence in confronting the schemes of terrorism inside and outside the United States.

The U.S. administration has fruitlessly tried to downplay Mubarak's criticism of it and its security agencies, which was carried by various U.S. media, particularly the widely circulated NEW YORK TIMES. We read and heard statements by U.S. State Department and White House spokesmen denying U.S. laxity in handling information on terrorists and terrorism. They asserted that President Clinton ordered an investigation into the way U.S. security agencies handled information obtained from Egyptian security agencies about international terrorism.

The long-expected meeting between Mubarak and the new U.S. President Clinton took place. Political circles in Washington and Cairo held their breath. Some expected the meeting to be warm; others expected a cool meeting. Everyone looked forward with hope and anxiety to the 6 April meeting between the two presidents. The meeting lasted much longer than White House protocol officials had scheduled. They expected a half-hour meeting; it lasted more than an hour.

After Mubarak's talks with the new president, who is occupying the White House on behalf of the Democratic Party, the two presidents stood before the Egyptian and U.S. media in one of the halls of that famous residence. Both made brief speeches. The U.S. President praised Mubarak's domestic and foreign policies and noted that they had total understanding on all issues discussed—bilateral, Middle Eastern, and international.

Mubarak emphasized understanding between the two countries on all international matters, particularly the Middle East peace issue, declaring: "Egypt and the United States are able to achieve this goal and surmount existing difficulties."

My perplexity grew after I heard the new U.S. President's statement following his talks with Mubarak and their joint news conference. The U.S. President's warm welcome of our president was clear and special. His remarks about the need to combat terrorism and halt its spread needed no interpretation. They were clear, specific, and emphatic.

The difference was great between what Clinton and his aides were saying about their concern for Egypt's security, and the actions of the U.S. security agencies and the U.S. administration in providing comfort for all Egyptian outlaws who resort to the U.S. Embassy in Cairo and its embassies in nearby Arab capitals to get entry visas to the United States.

What happened in the case of the blind shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman, who is not known or respected except by a few misguided followers, is an example of what happens in the case of other Egyptian outlaws who, after being involved in serious security crimes, find none except America's tender bosom to embrace them and remove all the obstacles which should by right have prevented their entry into the United States. Thereafter they use it as a platform to direct invective at their country, abuse its leaders, and try to provoke the U.S. people into pressuring their government to reconsider its close ties and aid to Egypt.

I was astounded when I saw a U.S. television network broadcasting an announcement about a news conference by the blind shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. This happened immediately after Mubarak's and Clinton's news conference. 'Abd-al-Rahman appeared to comment on Mubarak's and Clinton's statements. I heard him attacking the two presidents and casting doubt on their truthfulness. He did not refrain from demanding that President Mubarak be put on trial.

Imagine! This blind shaykh, known only to a few Egyptians and shunned even by those who knew him because of his insolence and promiscuity, has become a "star" pursued by U.S. television networks and holds news conference in which he abuses his country, its leaders, policies, and people.

U.S. news media have been trying to turn 'Abd-al-Rahman, known only to criminals and terrorists in Egypt, into a glittering political star for the sole reason that the U.S. administration, before and after Clinton came to power, granted him the right to enter its territory and turned a blind eye to his suspect contacts and the false statements he submitted about himself, including any information about his several marriages.

I am angered by the attitude of the U.S. administration which totally contradicts its assurances to Egyptian officials that it rejects dictatorship, combats terrorism, and pursues terrorists.

The mere presence of terrorist 'Abd-al-Rahman on U.S. territory, the freedom he enjoys to move around, make contacts, and hold meetings with the aim of abusing Egypt, its people, and leaders, is the strongest proof that what the U.S. Administration tells us is totally different from what it does against us.

Truly, the other U.S. face is very strange, very ugly. It is ridiculous that this face professes democracy and human rights.

Information Minister, Coptic Author Attacked

NC2004111793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—Terrorists exchanged fire with police today near the home of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, in al-Khalifah al-Ma'mun Street, Roxy, east Cairo.

According to preliminary information, one of the terrorists at the scene was arrested in possession of one of the automatic rifles used in the exchange of fire. The other terrorists escaped, leaving behind the weapons used in the incident. The Interior Ministry is expected to issue a statement on the incident later today.

Early reports say that terrorists opened fire on the car in which Safwat al-Sharif was riding in front of his home. He was slightly wounded in the hand by fragments of glass. Al-Sharif's personal guard reportedly was killed in the shoot-out with the terrorists.

[Paris AFP in English at 1020 GMT on 20 April reports that "a Coptic Christian author was shot in the shoulder in an assassination bid in southern Egypt blamed on the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group, police said Tuesday.

["The attack on Shihatah 'Aziz Jirjis took place late Monday in Dayrut, near the Muslim fundamentalist stronghold of Asyut.

["Two gunmen entered the author's house and one of them shot him before they escaped. Jirjis, who has won a national award for his writing, was treated at a local hospital.

["Muslim militants of the Jama'ah have been locked in a year-long battle with the authorities to destabilise the

government in violence that has killed some 140 people, including tourists and Copts."]

Minister Warns Militants of 'Decisive' Confrontation

NC1904123393 Paris AFP in English 1144 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, April 19 (AFP)—Egypt's new interior minister, General Hasan al-Alfi, pledged on Monday to launch a "decisive" confrontation to end unrest, in an implicit warning to Muslim militants.

The ruling party daily MAYU, meanwhile, said his predecessor General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa was sacked because he failed to consult President Husni Mubarak before accepting a mediation bid between the government and militants.

Al-Alfi urged the Egyptian people to collaborate with police to confront "elements... who try to disrupt public order," according to a press statement.

"There will be a decisive confrontation against any attempt to violate the law," the general said in his first official remarks since Mubarak named him Sunday to replace Musa.

Al-Alfi did not refer by name to the Muslim militants who have waged a year-long battle to destabilise the government that has killed some 140 people, including tourists and Coptic Christians. [passage omitted]

The new minister also pledged Monday to set up a "new security plan to create a climate favourable to economic development in the country" and said a project was underway to find jobs for unemployed youths in Asyut.

In interviews with AFP, al-Alfi has stressed the need to tackle the social and economic problems which he said were at the core of the violence. But he also insisted that "force must be answered by force."

According to the International Labour Organisation, 20 percent of Egypt's working population is unemployed, with southern Egypt the worst hit.

Al-Alfi recently said 85 percent of graduates from technical insitutes were unemployed, adding that most Muslim militants belonged to this category. He has also implicitly voiced opposition to the security crackdown in Asyut.

According to MAYU, the sacked interior minister failed to draw up a "clear strategy on security action."

Libya

VOA Commentary on Lockerbie Suspects Criticized

LD1904212493 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 19 Apr (JANA)—In the course of his reply to a commentary by VOA which was said to represent the U.S. Government's view, JANA's political editor has said that the commentary did not carry anything new, that it repeated the same accusations reiterated by the the U.S. media, and that its content confirmed yet again the U.S. Government's attempt to turn a legal issue into a political one, as official documents in the possession of the United Nations would confirm. [passage omitted]

If the [Western] parties are indeed in possession of evidence against the two [Lockerbie] suspects, as the commentary claimed, why would they not agree to Libya's positive proposal?

The Great Jamahiriyah has since the beginning called for applying the trial principle; the commentary confirmed that there is an underlying intention to pin the charge on the suspects even when it has not yet been established. [passage omitted]

UN Blocking Participation in International Forums

LD1704191393 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Apr (JANA)—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity made a statement in which he said:

The Great Jamahiriyah, out of its pan Arab responsibilities, has been eager to strengthen to the last detail joint Arab action in all fields and to translate this action into calls for pan-Arab unity within the framework of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] and the Arab League. The Great Jamahiriyyah has always been eager to take an active part in the activities of the Arab League and AMU committees, institutions, and councils but the coercive measures resulting from the unlawful UN Security Council Resolution 748 have been an obstacle in the way of Libya's participation.

Although we have never recognized this resolution we did, however, request the committee in question to allow the Libyan delegations to take part in conferences. However, in order to take part in such conferences it is necessary to travel by air. But the aforementioned committee refused our request, and accordingly, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity and the accompanying delegation are unable to take part in the meetings of the present session of the Arab League.

As the above committee refused the request it is not possible to take part in these meetings. Participation in future sessions will also not be possible.

The refusal of the [Security Council] committee is not within the provisions of the unjust resolution, which does not stipulate barring delegations from travelling. This confirms that an entire nation is under siege and this is in breach of the UN Charter and international treaties. This refusal prevents us from taking part in the meetings of international and regional institutions and it undermines the effectiveness of joint action at Arab, African, and international levels and requires the Arab nation to shoulder its responsibilities and secure an end to this unjust siege which has prevented the delegations of the Great Jamahiriyah from taking part in the activities of those organizations.

New Russian Ambassador Presents Credentials

LD1904151393 Tripoli JANA in English 1422 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 19, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the People's Bureau of Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation yesterday received the credentials of Aleksey Podtserov, the new ambassador of federal Russia to the Great Jamahariyah.

The new Russian ambassador presented his credentials and made a speech at the beginning of which he conveyed the compliments of the Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the leader of the revolution, the Libyan people and the Arab [words indistinct].

He said that the Great Jamahariyah and Russia have been linked by ties of friendship and mutual cooperation for a long time. He said "as far as I am concerned I will act for the strengthening of these relations towards new depths and horizons."

At the end of his speech the ambassador said that Russia will act towards resuming its efforts to arrive at a peaceful settlement for the crisis between the Great Jamahariyah and Western states.

The secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation delivered a speech welcoming the new Russian ambassador and wishing him success in his job. He re- asserted the need to exert every effort towards the successful accomplishment of his mission to strengthen relations between the two countries.

The secretary asked the new Russian ambassador to convey the compliments of the leader of the revolution to President Boris Yeltsin the president of federal Russia and wishes for prosperity and progress to the the friendly Russian people.

The secretary stated that relations between the Great Jamahariyah and federal Russia have always been characterised by diversity and confirmed the need to develop them for the benefit of the two friendly people.

Kuwait

Rwandan President Habyarimana Arrives 19 Apr

EA2004111593 Kigali Radiodiffusion Nationale de la Republique Rwandaise in French 1115 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The president of the Republic, Major General Juvenal Habyarimana, and his wife arrived in Kuwait City at 1145 on 19 April for a four-day visit. The Rwandan head of state was welcomed on arrival by the Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the prime minister, and members of the Kuwaiti Government. Scheduled to take place during the visit are talks with government officials and tours of areas damaged during the Gulf War. President Habyarimana heads a delegation including, notably the minister of planning, Augustin Ngirabatware, and that of finance, Marc Rogenera. This information was sent to us by our special correspondent, Jean Baptiste Bamwanga.

* Amir Discusses Israeli Boycott, Iraq

93AE0461A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Article by Jihad al-Khazin: "Salah al-Ahmad Expects Partial Lifting of Embargo"]

[Text] Kuwait—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait, said in an interview with AL-HAYAH yesterday that Kuwait was in the process of evaluating its policy toward the Arab states that stood against it or did not support it during the Iraqi occupation and that some of the foreign ministers of the "anti-Kuwait" countries would visit Kuwait shortly.

However, Sabah excluded Iraq from the normalization of relations, saying that it was impossible for the Kuwaiti people to deal with Iraq as long as Saddam Husayn remained in power; with the PLO, in the person of its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat (not the Palestinian cause); and with Jordan.

As for Jordan, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said that matters had gone so far that the Iraqi press was quoting the constant attacks of the Jordanian press on Kuwait. He added that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia agreed in their position toward the Jordanian Government.

He said that the Damascus Declaration was neither tottering nor dead, as some have said. Kuwait was holding to it. It has opened the way for a more cohesive system in the Arab world and will benefit everyone who joins it. He expressed confidence that American policy in the Gulf would continue unchanged with the new administration, noting that American policy is based on institutions, not individuals.

In response to a question, he said that there were American and European pressures to end the boycott of Israel. There has always been disagreement and difference among the Arab states regarding the boycott. The Arab states are now consulting among themselves and might review a number of matters. If it is in their interest, they will lift the embargo. He said that he expected that it would be lifted partially, not entirely, if an agreement was reached.

Shaykh Sabah said that his country did not support partitioning Iraq or any Arab state. He noted that the Iraqi opposition itself did not support partition, but he acknowledged that such a danger existed under the present regime.

He expressed hope that relations that consist of noninterference and mutual respect will be established between Iran and its neighbors. He alluded to Iran's dispute with the United Arab Emirates over the islands, saying that disputes must not be resolved by arms or threat of arms.

The foreign minister was asked about the Kuwaiti opposition. He replied that he did not consider it an opposition in the Kuwaiti understanding of democracy. He affirmed that there was absolutely no thought of dissolving the National Assembly.

Shaykh Sabah said that Kuwait would adhere to the production quota OPEC had set for the country—1.5 million barrels per day—provided that no other member increased its production, notwithstanding Kuwait's current need to produce 2 million barrels per day.

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Meeting Stresses Support for Palestine Issue

LD1904185093 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 19 Apr (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, presided over a cabinet session held this afternoon in the al-Yamamah palace in Riyadh.

After the session, Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state, member of the Cabinet, and acting information minister, told SPA that on the instructions of the crown prince the cabinet listened to a brief report from His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, about the visit by Egyptian Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi. [passage omitted]

Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud said: The cabinet followed up the course of the Palestinian issue and the developments of the peace negotiations, which were to be held in Washington, and the tendency to postpone them in line with the decision taken by the foreign ministers of the frontline countries in their last meeting in Damascus. The cabinet emphasized that the efforts of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the custodian of

the two holy mosques, will continue in all directions that might serve the Palestinian issue and the Arab rights and that might fulfill the aspirations of the brother Palestinians. In this context the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, has issued orders to support the Jerusalem Fund.

Minister Mas'ud said that in the course of reviewing political events and developments at Arab, Islamic, and international levels, the council expressed deep concern over the worsening situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly the siege imposed and the barbaric shelling by Serbian forces on the Muslim town of Srebrenica. The council looks to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution regarding the imposition of economic sanctions on the Serbs and the need for effective measures to be taken by the international community to prevent the mass genocide of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to end their tragedy, since the fall of Srebrenica is an omen of the collapse of the ongoing peace efforts regarding Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud added that the council studied reports on the events of the hour and pointed with interest to the situation in Pakistan and Afghanistan. It expressed hope that the situation in Pakistan will calm down and that self-control will be exercised so that security and stability can be maintained in the Muslim country of Pakistan. It also expressed its hope that the fighting among warring Afghan militia will end and that the peace which was won by the Afghan people with blood and sweat through bitter struggle will prevail, to safeguard their country and its prosperity and security.

Minister Mas'ud went on to say that Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, briefed the council on the joint meeting of OPEC ministers and their counterparts outside the organization, held last Tuesday in the Omani capital of Muscat. In this context, the council stressed the kingdom's concern about stability in the oil market now and in the future and its concern that the market will not to be exposed to sudden fluctuations, and will take into simultaneous consideration the joint interests of oil producers and importers. [passage omitted]

Turkish Envoy Brings Message for King Fahd

LD1904131693 Riyadh SPA in English 1249 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Riyadh, April 19, SPA—Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard has received a message to custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz from the Turkish prime minister, Suleyman Demirel.

The message was handed over by Arhan Tuncel, the envoy of the Turkish prime minister who was received by Prince 'Abdallah at the royal court, al-Yamamah Palace here this afternoon. The meeting was attended by the Turkish ambassador to the Kingdom.

Satellite Contract Signed With Aerospatiale

LD1804021093 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2220 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 17 Apr [SPA]—In the presence of 'Alawi Darwish Kayyal, minister of posts, telephones, and telegraph, a contract between the Arab organization for satellite communications—ARABSAT—and the French company Aerospatiale was signed today in Riyadh. The contract includes the manufacture of two second generation satellites and includes comprehensive insurance covering manufacture and launch. The contract is valued at 257.9 million dollars. [passage omitted]

Each satellite carries 36 satellite channels, 12 of which will be in the Ku band and 22 channels in the C band. Eight are high power channels. Those channels will cover the Arab states and large parts of Asia, Africa, and Europe.

The second generation satellites will meet the needs of the Arab administrations in the coming years, in the field of communications services and the media. The channels will also make it possible to transmit television programs that can be received with an aerial 60 cms to 1 meter in diameter.

It is the expected that the first satellite will be launched into orbit within 33 months from the date of the contract coming into force.

Yemen

Opposition on 'Deep Ideological Differences'

PM2004080493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Apr 93 pp1, 4

[Reports by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari in Sanaa and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah in Aden: "Al-'Attas To Head the House and Nu'man the Government ... After the Results?]

[Excerpts] About 5,000 candidates competing for 301 seats begin their election campaigns today, Saturday. [passage omitted]

Opposition sources said yesterday that the elections "have brought to the surface the deep ideological differences between the two ruling parties, namely the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Socialist Party [SP], even after their signing of the political "code of honor" last month.

They added that "the elections may tip the balance in favor of the GPC led by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih because its candidates are very popular in their constituencies, especially in the northern governorates and even in the Aden governorate despite the fact that the SP expects to be the winner there."

Political and social circles in Aden expect the elections, which are being held for the first time, "to put the GPC

in first place, the SP in second place, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping, which is the most prominent Islamic opposition party, in third place."

They add that "there is definite information indicating that there is agreement between the GPC and the SP leaderships to the effect that Yasin Sa'id Nu'man and Haydar al-'Attas (of the SP) will exchange their present positions so that (House of Deputies Speaker) Nu'man will be asked to form the government and (Prime Minister) al-'Attas will be elected as the new speaker of the House of Deputies." [passage omitted]

Iranian Forces Shell Kurdish Positions in North

NC2004103493 Paris AFP in English 2016 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Ankara, April 19 (AFP)—Iranian forces on Monday lobbed shells across the border onto positions of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran inside northern Iraq, an Iraqi Kurdish source said.

"Shells started to fall Monday morning on the areas of Raniyah and Qal'at Dizah and several villages were hit," according to the source, who spoke to AFP in Ankara by telephone from northern Iraq. "All the villages were evacuated by their inhabitants," the source said, adding he was "worried about eventual ground operations by the Iranian army following the shelling."

"For four days, we've seen artillery, armored vehicles, canons and Iranian soldiers mass on the other side of the Iran-Iraq border," said the source, who requested anonymity. "The Iraqi Kurdish parliament (not recognized internationally) has decided to retaliate in case of a ground attack," he said.

The operations "could last for a long time" like those conducted in October by the Turkish army against Turkish Kurdish rebels hiding in northern Iraq.

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the report. Nor were there reports on casualties.

Vice President on Economy, Relations

JN2004110393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Apr (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolutionary Command Council member and vice president, has stated that the embargo has increased the Iraqi mujahidin's creativity and capability, prompting them to transcend the traditional frameworks of accomplishment.

Ramadan said in a statement in the latest issue of AL-'IRAQ AL-IQTISADI that Iraq's economic capabilities will strongly manifest themselves to the world and affirm their identity in the coming phase. The vice president renewed his great confidence in the Iraqis' capabilities, in their potential resources, and in their ability to make sacrifices. He noted the hopes pinned on the completion of the three irrigation projects in Ninawa, which will achieve Iraq's self-sufficiency in grains by cultivating an area of 1-1.5 million donums.

Regarding Iraq's view of Arab economic cooperation in light of the Arab regional order, Ramadan asserted that Iraq will not hesitate to reestablish bilateral relations with any other Arab country. Iraq welcomes bilateral, trilateral, and regional relations as long as they are within the framework of the one Arab nation, he added. Ramadan reiterated Iraq's readiness to extend all its experience to the Arab brethren to help them achieve development.

Ramadan pointed out that Iraqi cadres implemented irrigation projects in fraternal Sudan and that there is an approach to do so in fraternal Yemen. He said that Iraq's economic role will be distinguished in the Arab arena, stressing the need for Arab self- reliance. Regarding Iraq's financial obligations under the current circumstances, the vice president said that the world knows that Iraq is one state that fulfills its obligations well. He recalled that while bombs were falling on Baghdad, the Iraqi leadership sent messages to government heads to repay them the due debts in a period of time less than that stipulated in the agreements.

Regarding the future of the Iraqi dinar's exchange rate and its financial status, Ramadan asserted that the dinar's value in the parallel market does not reflect Iraq's economic structure. It is an exchange rate dictated by circumstances due to the lack of hard currency and the dinar's circulation in the neighboring markets. He pointed out that the leadership will continue to adhere to the dinar's official rate which better expresses the national economy.

Ramadan said that Iraq supports normalizing its relations with all states, including the United States, within the framework of joint interests, sovereignty, dignity, and noninterference in internal affairs. He stated that there is a reasonable level of dialogue and contact with firms and states to initiate economic relations when the embargo ends. Ramadan explained that had it not been for the immoral pressures and personal threats against officials, these contacts and agreements would have been wider than what has thus far been made.

Saddam Addresses al-Muthanna Dignitaries

JN1904174193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has emphasized that Westerners must take note of what the Iraqis say on their occasions and the vocabulary they use on these occasions.

He added: There is a single people in Iraq who have faced more than 33 states and have been confronting a blockade for almost three years. Their vocabulary on history, as well as their vocabulary on martyrdom, are all linked to the great meanings and supreme values. On their occasions, they recall their banners, principles, and supreme values.

During a meeting today with al-Muthanna Governorate tribal chiefs and dignitaries, President Saddam Husayn said many people do not correctly interpret the Iraqis because of their clear nature. Nor do these people know how to assess their own positions and predict what will happen if they clash with the Iraqis, he added.

President Saddam Husayn said: One word of advice to those who may contemplate a clash with the Iraqis. They should look carefully at them, and ask if there is any nation in the world that has as many poets as we have

here in this good gathering. Let them tell us how many of them can compose and recite poetry.

His excellency said: We in this country are the people of faith and principles. We did not wish anyone to reach rock bottom in order to prove that we stand at the summit. When Iraq rose, and when it has faith and reaches new summits, it does so regardless of the stand or status of others.

President Saddam Husayn added: Naturally, we say once again that it does not please us to see that people hitting rock bottom were among Arabs, whether as officials or people in other positions.

Saddam Address on al-Faw Anniversary; Part I

JN2004072493 Baghdad INA in English 1205 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad. Apr. 19. INA—President Saddam Husayn said yesterday Iraq had faced tough times on both military and psychological levels during and after the Iranian occupation of the al-Faw peninsula.

Speaking at a meeting of military commanders and militarymen who took part in the al-Faw liberation operations, President Husayn said all facts must be put before the people of Iraq. Facts have to be well defined so that future generations and historians can inherit facts intact. This, he said, would prevent distortion by hostile parties to what really happened.

The president went on to say that Iranian attack on al-Faw while Iraqis were braced for an Iranian attack on the Fourth Corps sector in the marshes. [sentence as received] The al-Faw front which starts from south of al-Basrah down to Ras al-Bisha at the Gulf was manned by Brigade 111 and a battalion.

Iraqis had to fight fierce battles for 42 days in order to stop the enemies [as received] advance. During these days, Iraqis sustained considerable losses. However, the Iranians also suffered heavy losses.

The situation was not at all in favour of the Iraqi Armed Forces which had to be rushed from other sectors of the front of al-Faw.

Meanwhile, Iranians had the privilege of being prepared for the situation. The land did not allow the arriving Iraqi units to deploy well. They had very little room to move and they so often fell victim to Iranian shelling. The Iranians had already fixed their observation posts from which they can direct their artillery fire. The president elaborated.

However, the Iraqi troops at last managed to stop the Iranian advance and the enemy began to retreat. But this retreat, the president said, was measured by metres.

Soon Iraqis began to set up their defence positions under very difficult circumstances that did not allow an organised deployment of these position.

It was a very bitter situation. Western and Israeli propaganda seized on the situation to demoralise Iraqis and Arabs. They tried to give the impression that the Iranians were within an easy reach of al-Basrah.

The al-Faw occupation led to a situation where some Iraqis started to be sceptical about a final Iraqi victory. So victory was badly needed to restore self-confidence to Irqis and Arabs in general

While seeing pain at the faces of Iraqis, "we talked to them about victory. This was not meant to 'bluff' them. We talked (of victory) emanating from unshaken faith." the president said.

In the midst of such crucial circumstances the Iraqi command never lost patience and remained cautious about carrying out anything that might entails loss of blood with very little results.

Once the dust of the first battle had settled skirmishes continued with both sides tired of the length of battles and the losses they sustained. None of them had the military force that can deal a heavy blow to the other, the president said.

Following continuous fighting for 45 days, almost all Iraqi army formations had been involved in the combat, he stated.

The president said Iraqis were then able to work out new ways to build defence positions. Meanwhile, Iraqi units were being replaced by others so that there would be an opportunity for them to get trained.

New formations were set up in the meantime. The training plans were personally supervised by the president himself. Some of the new battalions were involved in battles that raged in the north where Iraqis maintained military pressure on the Iranians.

However, the military gains Iraq achieved in the north were too little to redress the situation created by the Iranian occupation of al-Faw. The al-Faw occupation kicked up an uproar and it had far- reaching reverberations in the world. The Iranians used it for psychological warfare with Rafsanjani telling the Gulf states he would travel to them by car.

At that time, orders were given to work out a plan to liberate al- Faw. "I ordered commanders: I want a well trained Army capable of restoring the last [as received] land whenever it is ordered to do so." the president explained.

At a certain time, Iraq had 96 brigades plus the Republican Guards training for the liberation.

The enemy was aware tht once enough forces are at Iraq's disposal. The initiative would be in Iraq's hand, "The Iranians, therefore. raised the slogan of the decisive year in 1987.

The Iranian enemy did attack Umm al-Rasas Island in Shatt al-'Arab and was defeated. But the Iranians continued their attacks on the Third Corps front which extends to no more than 8 kms in length and some five kilometres in depth.

The Iranians launched a large-scale mobilisation campaign to implement their doomed decisive year plan. "All Iran came to us. The battle raged... it was of a strange kind. Two states were battling on the battle scene. Logic was lost in that battle. They (Iranians) had set their eyes on al-Basrah which was no more than 23 kms away. They tried to achieve some victory on the belief that if they reached al-Basrah they would be able to divide Iraq," the president said.

The battle, however, finally ended in favour of Iraq on April 27 and the decisive year was a total failure. Iraqis then termed the East of al-Basrah battle the "great harvest", the president said.

All units that had been prepaed for the al-Faw liberation were engaged in those battles. President Husayn said.

The enemy in the meantime had added more complications to the land of al-Faw, he said.

President Husayn, the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces revealed that it was part of the al-Faw liberation plan that the enemy must be led to believe it was only normal to see Iraqi units moving in an out of the al-Faw zone. This was meant to facilitate the arrival of liberation troops without being detected by the Iranians. This also helped the liberation units to reconnoitre the area and experience it.

The plan helped the Iraqi command to manoeuvre with the Republican Guards without being detected by the Iranians, "even the Americans were practically unaware of Iraq's plan to launch an attack despite their satellites and intelligence," the president said.

It was essential to mislead the Americans in the first place, not the Iranians. The Americans must in no way know tht Iraq had plans to attack, he said.

The al-Faw liberation plan was carefully considered, the president said. Iraq had a well-trained battle-hardened Army. But Iraq's calculations were disrupted with the Iranian occupation of Halabjah with the collaboration of traitors. It was an all-out fighting in the north. It raged for 20 days until the command was convinced Iraqis were facing attrition. At that time, "I was fully convinced... it was the moment we have to strike in al-Faw," the president said.

Status of Opposition Struggle Explained

PM1604112193 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 12 Apr 93 pp34-36

[Interview with Major General Hasan al-Naqib, member of the Presidential Council of the Iraqi National Congress of the Iraqi opposition, by Zaki Shihab; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Shihab] Some Iraqi circles tip you as the alternative to Saddam Husayn. Are you capable of that task and do you have the leadership qualities?

[Al-Naqib] I would not assign myself to a post which the Iraqi people may not wish me to hold, but if my people's wish is for me to assume a particular task, I would be prepared to place all my capabilities at their service. The Iraqi people are suffering unparalleled persecution and repression. Our attention and the attention of any future Iraqi leadership should focus on giving the Iraqi people what they have missed over the past years. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] What about contacts with the Iraqi Army?

[Al-Naqib] I have confidence in the Army and I believe that the Iraqi Army trusts me. That is what I sense in the contacts which are held in ways that I need not reveal. There is a military generation raised on serving the aims of Iraq, interest in maintaing Iraq's links with its Arab surroundings, and defense of Iraqi interests against those who covet them.

[Shihab] Some Iraqi opposition circles have spoken of recent executions of officers by the Iraqi regime. Do you have accurate details and information on that?

[Al-Naqib] Systematic execution of officers in Iraq is one of the main tasks which Saddam Husayn carries out from time to time. He considers executions to be a useful process in terrorizing the Army and every officer who contemplates anything contrary to the regime's line and the personal ambitions of its leaders. Most of those executed were innocent.

[Shihab] Have there been any coup attempts against Saddam Husayn recently?

[Al-Naqib] I do not believe that, in its present condition, the Army is capable of carrying out a successful coup against Saddam because of the private guard and the Republican Guard protecting the Iraqi president and because of the infiltration of Saddam's intelligence elements into the ranks of the Iraqi Army and officers.

[Shihab] Why then has the opposition claimed that there was a coup attempt against Saddam Husayn a few months ago?

[Al-Naqib] We had some evidence that such an attempt was made but we did not have the details of what happened. I wish to point out that it is in the nature of the the current regime to fabricate scenarios about abortive coup attempts to use that as a pretext for terrorizing the military establishment further. The coup attempt which occurred months ago resulted in victims and bloodshed.

[Shihab] Do you have any names?

[Al-Naqib] Yes, Brigadier General Sabri Mahmud, who was a brigade commander, led the attempt, but it failed and he was executed. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] The National Congress and the Kurdistan Front leaders spoke in the past of their efforts to create an opposition party that would include the Kurdish Peshmerga and the military units of the opposition. Has anything of that kind been accomplished recently?

[Al-Naqib] We are serious about organizing our military affairs. Every opposition in the world should, without doubt, have its own military arm. There are steps which I do not want to disclose for the time being because it is not in our interest to talk about that.

[Shihab] Do you expect the Iraqi opposition to reach a stage where it would have its own army.

[Al-Naqib] There are two conflicting points. We undoubtedly want a military force, but at the same time we want to avoid a civil war in Iraq. There have been such wars in other countries. We want to spare the Iraqi people further pain. They have already suffered enough. That is why we seek to spare the lives of our people and our soldiers in the Army.

[Shihab] When you talk about civil war, do you mean sectarian war?

[Al-Naqib] Sectarianism was never an issue in the Iraqi arena, and I hope that will continue to be the case in the future. The Iraqi National Congress represents the main trends working for the unity of the Iraqi homeland and people.

[Shihab] Every time the opposition holds a conference, it talks about designs and plans to overthrow the regime. What has been carried out? Why have we not noticed any change?

[Al-Naqib] The recent Salah al-Din conference can be considered the first step on the right track. As a military man, I do not wish to go into any details, but I ask you to give us enough time because tackling the situation in Iraq is not as easy as some people imagine. It is a difficult task. The opposition has started it but it needs time.

[Shihab] What has the opposition achieved since the end of the Kuwait liberation war?

[Al-Naqib] The first victory was the unification of the Iraqi opposition factions. Many circles had expected the unification efforts to fail but we succeeded because of our faith that the way to change the current situation in Iraq must begin with the unification of all the opposition forces. Second, we have initiated some practical steps for the fulfillment of our objectives covering political, informational, and military aspects. Furthermore, we have recently begun to reap international recognition of the Iraqi National Congress. The Iraqi opposition now has a political body and an executive council embracing most Iraqi opposition factions. Third, and significantly, this opposition's activities against the regime are carried out inside Iraq.

[Shihab] You talk about unity of the Iraqi opposition as if it embodies all opposition factions, but the truth is that some factions are still outside the Iraqi National Congress. Does that mean that they are not important?

[Al-Naqib] The factions still operating outside the framework of the National Congress are important factions. We do not exaggerate and say that the Iraqi National Congress is perfect. We admit that there are still some gaps and shortcomings, but we have made efforts and are still doing so to improve the situation. With all our hearts, we appeal to the brothers who are still outside the Congress' framework to join us so we may intensify the efforts to change the current situation in Iraq. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] How do you assess the Arab and international aid for the Iraqi opposition so far?

[Al-Naqib] It is still moral support. There is no tangible material aid.

[Shihab] How can the opposition endure and continue to operate in the absence of Arab or international material aid?

[Al-Naqib] We will continue to oppose the present Iraqi regime. As the Iraqi opposition, we are facing very many difficulties because of the lack of material aid. Every opposition in the world receive material aid.

[Shihab] Who currently finances the activities of the Iraqi National Congress?

[Al-Naqib] That question is for Executive Council Chairman Ahmad al-Jalabi to answer. He has the details. What I know is that some Iraqi financiers make donations to cover part of the expenses of our political activities.

[Shihab] What do you expect from U.S. President Clinton's administration?

[Al-Naqib] We know that President Clinton is interested in the causes of democracy and human rights in the world. There are UN Security Counci resolutions calling on the Iraqi regime to give in to the will of the international community. That is why we hope that there will be a clear and serious understanding of our cause. As the opposition, our task is to explain that cause to the U.S. officials, bearing in mind that the United States is the main world power and we are interested in gaining its support.

[Shihab] What about your forthcoming visit to the United States?

[Al-Naqib] The purpose of the visit, which might take place in the middle of this current month, is to work for the salvation of our people. The visit's schedule will be

full of meetings with U.S. officials, especially Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

[Shihab] What was new in your meeting with British Prime Minister John Major on 30 March?

[Al-Naqib] Our meeting with Prime Minister John Major was a courtesy meeting. He showed interest in the Iraqi question, but our thorough meeting was with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

[Shihab] Did Secretary Hurd talk to you about practical steps in support of your efforts?

[Al-Naqib] He expressed understanding and support for our policy and he called for cooperation.

[Shihab] Was the question of changing the Iraqi regime or anything like that discussed?

[Al-Naqib] Yes, we broached the question of changing the Iraqi regime, but we did not discuss details. I raised the need for the opposition to have its military arm, a matter which cannot be achieved without material resources.

[Shihab] What is the truth about the claim that Secretary Hurd tried to find out your position on relations with Kuwait and the neighboring Arab states?

[Al-Naqib] We stressed to him beyond any doubt that we have no designs to commit any act of aggression against any neighboring Arab or non-Arab state.

[Shihab] What did Hurd say about his recent visit to the United States? Did he discuss the Iraqi question with his U.S. counterpart?

[Al-Naqib] No. We just exchanged information in a general way.

[Shihab] Did you discuss the rumors about a change in the position of Britain or the United States regarding the Iraqi regime?

[Al-Naqib] No, because neither the British Government nor the U.S. Government will deal with the current regime in Baghdad for many reasons, the most important being the Iraqi regime's infamous human rights record which cannot be overlooked. Furthermore, there are UN resolutions which if implemented by the regime would mean the end of that regime.

[Shihab] Did you raise the question of the Iraqi frozen funds with the British officials?

[Al-Naqib] No, we did not.

Opposition on Moves To Create Change

NC2004084993 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with 'Aziz 'Ulayyan, secretary general of the Union of Iraqi Democrats (Ittihad al-dimuqratiyyin al- 'Iraqiyyin), in London, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Abu-al-Majd] Reports speak of disturbances in Baghdad in an attempt to get rid of Saddam Husayn's regime. What is the latest news you have on this and what is happening in Iraq?

['Ulayyan] News available to us, directly through our people inside the homeland and in Baghdad, confirms that the worsening economy and the regime's terrorism and repression find our masses in Baghdad engaging in resistance attempts, many of them armed, against the regime's repressive agencies. This has prompted the regime to deploy large special forces units, the dictatorial regime's last line of defense, in densely populated, key areas in Baghdad, concentrating on al-Thawrah on the outskirts of Baghdad. Confrontations took place involving the masses, who were armed in some cases, and the special forces and other Saddamite repressive forces. Our information also confirms that the forces of our people inside the homeland, including many army officers and military units, are preparing to overthrow the [word indistinct] dictatorial regime. Some parties have held extensive contacts with Iraqi opposition forces, the leaders of which are outside the homeland, to prepare the political atmosphere for a change in Iraq. This preparation includes measures to preclude acts of violence and revenge that could occur after the regime is toppled. The Iraqi opposition has opted for a general pardon of all those trapped by the regime into taking measures against the Iraqi people, apart from the head of the regime and the group responsible for political decisions. The Iraqi opposition and its leaders have made this promise to the brothers in the Iraqi Army and to the opposition inside the homeland so that they can prepare to move to overthrow Saddam and his regime.

[Abu-al-Majd] Could you tell us about the latest moves and their military, political, and mobilization aspects, especially as the regime holds things with an iron fist? Have you penetrated the special forces and the like?

['Ulayyan] The Iraqi opposition today maintains contacts, relations, and a presence inside the Iraqi Armed Forces, including the Republican Guards, one of the main forces set up by the regime to defend it. The Iraqi regime is almost totally isolated from the grassroots of the Iraqi Army and people. There is considerable evidence to prove that the internal conflict within the regime is widening so much that the conflict has reached the ruling family. There are differences and conflict within this family. Some people from Saddam Husayn's family are contacting opposition figures to prepare for the change in Iraq. This shows the strength of the Iraqi opposition and the weakness of the regime. It also shows that the Iraqi people are ready to sacrifice until Saddam Husayn and his regime are removed.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do we understand from this that some members of Saddam Husayn's family are in touch with

you and are getting ready to topple Saddam? If so, are you ready to cooperate with them and trust them?

['Ulayyan] We, as opposition, are naturally ready to cooperate with anyone who contributes to the process of change in Iraq. We want the change to cost as little as possible; we don't want it to result in great sacrifice and casualties. If the army commanders, even leading figures in the regime, even ruling family members, side with the Iraqi people, we will welcome and support this. But we refuse to replace one dictatorship with another. So the Iraqi opposition, united under the Unified Iraqi National Congress, has a clear-cut program to create change in Iraq. There are contacts between members of Saddam Husayn's family and Iraqi opposition forces to persuade them to prepare to overthrow Saddam's regime. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Said To Pose New Demands for Resuming Talks

TA2004101093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Apr 93 p A3

[Report by correspondent in the territories Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpt] The Palestinians have made the resumption of the bilateral talks conditional on lifting the closure and putting an end to Israel's aggressive "military operations" in the territories, especially in Gaza. Palestinian sources who are close to the Palestinian delegation members noted that this new demand was raised in the preparatory talks held in Washington by five delegation members, headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, in addition to the list of Palestinian demands submitted previously.

Palestinian sources in Jerusalem believe the Palestinian delegation is encountering difficulties in deciding to attend the ninth round of talks because of public opinion in the territories, which opposes such participation as long as the closure continues. The "economic blockade," as the Palestinians call it, is causing great hardship for large segments of the population.

In addition to this, the concentrated IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operations—mainly in the Gaza Strip—which have greatly damaged the terrorists' infrastructure are making it hard for the PLO to decide to return to the negotiating table. [passage omitted]

Arab Policy Said Set by 'Most Extreme Elements'

TA1904134293 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Apr 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Palestinians' Achievement"]

[Text] Even if we do not like it, the postponement of the talks in Washington constitutes an achievement for the Palestinians. They succeeded in imposing their position on all the Arab countries.

There was a lot of talk in our quarters about a reversal, as it were, in Syria's position, to the effect that it would be willing to go to the peace talks even without the Palestinians. Those incurable optimists were delivered a resounding slap in the face yesterday by the Syrian foreign minister, who declared: "Either together or not at all."

Which means that the Arabs have not moderated their position. They are still doing the same old thing: falling into line with the most extreme elements.

And the most extreme elements are the Palestinians. Never mind that some argue that there are all sorts of Palestinians and that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is more extreme than the PLO. This, too, was disproved yesterday.

The PLO is falling into line with Hamas. Its main demand—to return the deportees—is not an attempt to build a bridge to Israel but to Hamas. This should make not only us but also the Americans wonder if there is any sense at all to such "peace talks."

This is not a recommendation to unilaterally wash our hands of the talks, but it is definitely a recommendation to lower our expectations because even before they start, it is obvious that the Palestinians have not changed at all. They cannot let go of any opportunity to miss an opportunity.

Deputy Foreign Minister Convenes Multilateral Teams

TA1904134993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Apr 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Dan Avidan]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin yesterday summoned the heads of the Israeli teams to the multilateral talks. He noted that the water affairs committee will be the first of the five committees of the multilateral talks to convene. It is scheduled to meet in Geneva on 27 April, the same date now mentioned for the opening of the bilateral talks. Beilin said he hopes the multilateral talks will be held as scheduled should the bilateral talks resume.

Beilin noted that despite the long interval in the talks, the multilateral talks "have gotten on the right track" with the beginning of important projects and the establishment of permanent bodies to oversee their development and application. Beilin noted that the U.S. delegates to the committees on water and economic affairs will apparently be replaced at the request of the Europeans, who claimed that they were hindering progress in the deliberations. [passage omitted]

[A report by Yerah Tal and Gay Bekhor on pages A1 and A8 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 19 April adds that addressing visiting dignitaries from Quebec, "Beilin said: 'We realized over the weekend that the PLO has the ability to hinder the resumption of the peace talks. It is clear to us that the Palestinians face serious opposition to the process, but responsible men in their midst should take a clear stand and overcome the obstacles.'

["Beilin added that Israel hopes the talks will resume soon. In his opinion, the delegations should move from discussions on an agenda to accelerated deliberations on the substance of the agreements. 'It is obvious to us that progress will exact a price, but we must start the talks,' he said."]

Commentary Says Only Rabin Can Secure Peace

TA1604120293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Apr 93 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Man of the Hour"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin appears to be man of the hour. Too security-oriented for the left's liking and too forthcoming in terms of concessions for the national camp's liking, he is nevertheless regarded by all sides, both in Israel and

abroad, as the only man capable of forging some kind of arrangement. He was preceded by a long freeze and could be followed by the flood. Despite his blunt language and his sometimes ill-conceived moves, he is turning into the man of the last opportunity. When one hears the hopes that hang on him, one might think that if he did not exist, he would have to be invented.

President Mubarak—who said that one can make peace with Rabin—was more eager to meet with him than vice versa. Clinton's administration did its best to gratify him by helping him climb off the high horse he mounted with the deportee affair and by recognizing his right to implement tough measures against terrorism. Most important, it embraced Rabin's stand concerning the substance of peace and the need to cushion peace with security measures. The peace talks will resume on 20 April—exactly one week after the day in which the autonomy plan was slated to be signed, according to Rabin's timetable—and will continue without a break. As columnists Evans and Novak wrote, everybody is afraid of the danger inherent in the Likud's return to power under Netanyahu. Everybody is trying to stop the ticking of the clock and to prolong the hour of the man of the hour.

Rabin's leadership is yet to be tested, but nobody can argue against the fact that at least his thoughts are focused in the right direction and that he wants to seize the hour. He is obsessed with the idea of not losing America. A man who held a heart-to-heart talk with him recently received the impression that for Rabin, coordination with the U.S. Administration and making the Americans understand our security concerns are a precondition for any arrangement. Rabin does not want to repeat Yitzhaq Shamir's cardinal mistake which made him lose the trust of the U.S. President. Rabin, who during his first tenure as prime minister was involved with the United States in securing interim arrangements, is a strong believer in active U.S. involvement and in the United States functioning as a "guarantor" during all stages of the arrangements.

The man who spoke with Rabin gathered that the operative conclusions stemming from his outlook are divided into two parts: First, he must be completely frank with Clinton. He must avoid telling him things he does not believe and must refrain from any duplicity. Second, complete secrecy must be maintained regarding his contacts with the Clinton administration, because he believes that intentional and unintentional leaks have caused serious problems with former administrations.

For this reason the Israeli Government knows less than Clinton does about Rabin's plans, and perhaps it knows nothing at all. To date the government has been docilely acting out its role as a rubber stamp. Perhaps it is also aware of the fact that Rabin is man of the hour. Some time ago Elyaqim Rubinstein conveyed to Washington a package of plans and ideas worked out by Rabin. The ministers, including the foreign minister, are completely in the dark. Rabin's government at present sits in the White House rather than in Jerusalem.

Rabin's interlocutor claims that the prime minister is extremely satisfied about the understanding forged with Clinton. This understanding lowered Mubarak's expectations that the Americans will pressure Israel. Rabin intends to offer the Palestinians goodwill gestures only around the negotiating table, and not in order to induce them to come to the talks. This is what he apparently told Mubarak in the Ismailia meeting.

As man of the hour Rabin is also sensitive to the ticking of the clock. His enthusiasm about the possibility of a dramatic peace agreement with Syria has somewhat subsided after a senior U.S. official who visited Damascus reported that al-Asad is unwilling to enter a separate arrangement. Al-Asad, who sharply criticized al-Sadat for abandoning the Palestinians, will not hurry to establish an embassy in Tel Aviv, and his special relations with Iran only contributes to this. However, if Syria accepts a gradual arrangement—something in the form of "time in exchange for territories"—which will spread out over a period of 10-15 years, it will find a partner in Rabin. Prime Minister Rabin now understands, as does Clinton, that the urgent problem is how to attain the autonomy in the territories. Considering the slight majority which Rabin's government enjoys, this might be the only alternative, because it does not involve a return of territories.

Rabin's clock is Clinton. What shape will his involvement take, and how long will it last? It is well known that Clinton aggressively pressured the Arabs to come to the talks on schedule. His administration also authored the idea of continuous talks. All this points to a certain impatience. U.S. involvement will remain deep as long as success remains feasible. If there is a freeze, the Clinton administration might lose interest and withdraw from the process—it has enough serious problems of its own to deal with. Yitzhaq Shamir would certainly not have spilled any tears over this, but for Rabin this would constitute a heavy blow. Rabin's leadership will undergo a serious test over the next several months. As someone who is interested in the United States, Rabin will have to constantly fuel the peace process with new ideas and concessions in order not to lose U.S. support. If the United States steps out of the game, the man of the hour might become by the end of the year the man who missed an opportunity.

Senior Defense Official Plans Trip to Egypt

TA1904200693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri is going to Cairo this week at the head of an Israeli team for talks with the top echelons of the Egyptian Foreign Affairs and Defense Ministries. It is the first time in many years that a senior Israeli defense official has been invited to Egypt. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari said that the aim is to try and coordinate upcoming moves in the multilateral talks on arms control.

Chief of Staff: Closure To Continue for 'Long Time'

TA2004104393 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by On Levi and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpt] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq yesterday assessed that the closure on the territories will continue for a long time. According to Lieutenant General Baraq, the closure is achieving its aims and, at this stage, there is no intention to lift it. At the same time, the security establishment intends to permit 15,000-20,000 Palestinians to leave for work in Israel.

The chief of staff made these remarks following a ceremony in which some 50 outstanding officers from all IDF [Israel Defense Forces] branches were presented with certificates of merit. [passage omitted]

Likud Chairman Explains Objection to Continued Closure

TA1704191493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Studio interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik—live]

[Excerpt] [Sukenik] Good evening, Knesset Member [MK] Netanyahu. The closure in the territories has apparently managed to stem terrorism. We know that many people on our side are pleased with it, but the other side is not. What is it that bothers you?

[Netanyahu] I have no problem with closure as a temporary solution. The problem is that it can be only a temporary solution. Obviously, an economic separation or the investment of 450 million shekels of the Israeli taxpayer's money is not a solution. Don't the Arabs have money any more? Don't the Europeans have money? They do, and they can start investing in projects.

A hermetic physical closure, however, which is supported by the majority of the cabinet and of Labor, means a political separation. A political separation means there will be no vacuum. If we leave the territories or close them off, we will be replaced by a Palestinian state. Those who believe that Israel's problem of terrorism will be solved when a state led by 'Arafat and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is established in the outskirts of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa live neither in the Middle East nor in this world.

[Sukenik] If I understand correctly, you are in fact suggesting that the separating borderline be dissolved gradually, or perhaps quickly. Are you certain that will please a majority of the public?

[Netanyahu] I have proposed action against terror nests. The government is bound to lift the closure eventually—that is crystal clear. The main problem is that when it does, the terror centers, the inciters, the operators, and the activists will all return, perhaps with a vengeance.

[Sukenik] But you said funds should not be invested there. What about the fact that the territories are becoming an economic pressure cooker, which is the main cause of terror?

[Netanyahu] On the contrary, I said it can be done. As UN ambassador and deputy foreign minister, I myself appealed....

[Sukenik, interrupting] But no money came forth.

[Netanyahu] In the new international political reality with only one superpower, it is possible to get the United Nations to do something, to appeal to Europe, to appeal to the Arabs and say: Gentlemen, you who are constantly talking of refugees, of the Palestinians' miserable life, go ahead and invest. It is certainly no solution for the State of Israel to invest half a billion shekels in solving the employment problems of the Arabs in the territories when it has not invested the necessary resources in its own employment problems.

[Sukenik] Then, MK Netanyahu, if you were the prime minister today, would you revert to the former situation and take the usual steps—appeal to the world to invest, open the territories, and allow them to return to their jobs in Israel?

[Netanyahu] I would invest enormous and continuous—not only temporary—efforts in eradicating the centers of terror, including the dozens of front [not further specified] organizations, which the government never closed down. [passage omitted]

Businessman Interviewed on Ties With al-Qadhdhafi

TA1704131193

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew on 17 April carries a five-minute live telephone interview with businessman Ya'aqov Nimrodi by 'Adi Talmor.

Asked about the nature of his ties with Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Nimrodi replies that he "cannot say much" but "the whole story started about a year ago, when I had a partner called Adnan Khashugi, who is close to President al-Qadhdhafi. As part of my searches for [missing Israeli navigator] Ron Arad, we reached al-Qadhdhafi. Adnan Khashugi spent many, many hours talking to him. So far, we have been unable to find out anything about Ron Arad, but in the wake of Adnan's talks, al-Qadhdhafi agreed to send 200 Libyan pilgrims to Israel." Nimrodi goes on to explain that his travel company, "called Ziyara, brings Muslim pilgrims from all over the world to Jerusalem."

Nimrodi further says: "Something has happened to this president. I want you to know that he has expressed a desire to convert, so to speak." He adds: "He told Adnan that he loves Israel. He has Jewish friends," one of whom is in charge of the 200 Libyans' pilgrimage. The pilgrims were scheduled to arrive "10 days ago, but King Husayn got cold feet and asked the pilgrims to stay away, because

they would not be permitted to cross through Jordan. Now we are looking for another country, possibly Egypt or Cyprus.

"The most important thing I want to tell you is that the man is lonely. He has made a 180-degree turnabout. He is against Muslim fundamentalists. By the way, he said that after the pilgrims' visit, he will invite Israelis to Libya," and "he wants to host an international conference of the three religions."

Asked whether al-Qadhdhafi is mad or about to join the peace process, Nimrodi says: "He is not mad. He is going to join the peace process."

In reply to a question, Nimrodi says he has not met the Libyan ruler personally but said, "I have meet with Libyans; I do not want to elaborate." He refuses to disclose the rank of his Libyan interlocutors, noting that the meetings had been arranged by Adnan Khashugi, who "has done and is doing a lot to help in the Ron Arad matter." He points out: "Ron Arad was the only reason I went to see Shevardnadze; I did not go to buy or sell weapons." Asked about the Abkhasians' insistence that Nimrodi had sold weapons to Georgia, he says: "Nonsense, malicious slander. Nothing like that has happened."

Nimrodi ends the interview saying that he firmly believes that "al-Qadhdhafi will be the second president, after al-Sadat, to land in Jerusalem."

Peres on al-Qadhdhafi Statements

TA1804060793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Friedman] What is your reaction to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's remarks that he wants Jews to visit Libya and that he might even be ready to pay financial compensation for the property left behind by Libyan Jews when they left?

[Peres] First, he did not say Jews; he said Jews of Libyan descent. That is unacceptable to us. Just as a boycott of all Jews is unacceptable, so is a boycott of some of the Jews. He is not going all the way, and his pronouncements are aimed at making a good impression. If Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is serious about changing the current attitude toward him, he has to support the peace process, recognize the State of Israel, and adopt positive positions. So far, he has made a series of moves that he thought would improve Libya's image in the United States. That is interesting, but it does not basically change things. In reference to pilgrimages from Libya, Israel has always said it is open to pilgrims from all religions, and we are not preventing Libyans from coming here.

[Friedman] Is the dialogue so far only through the media, or is there something beyond that?

[Peres] I do not know. There have been all sorts of people coming and going for the past few weeks. We know about it from several sources, not just one source, and I have been aware of the subject for several months, but until there is something clearer and more detailed, there is no need to get overexcited.

Car Bomb Attributed to Muslim Extremists

TA1704175993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Remarks in English by Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, at Mehola Junction on 16 April—recorded]

[Excerpt] You know that car bombs are a weapon of terror at the hands of terrorists—in this case maybe radical Islamists. It's not the first car bomb that radical Islamists exploded, and it's not the only place; there are many other places, big cities in the world where they are trying this type of terror.

[Translating Baraq's remarks, correspondent Udi Segal also quotes the chief of staff as saying that "the terrorist was apparently a resident of the territories." Segal adds that "the terrorist's identity is unknown since his body was incinerated in the explosion, but the remnants of a Koran were found in his possession."

[A related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1700 GMT on 17 April adds: "A caller to an international news agency has claimed that the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam military wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] detonated yesterday's car bomb in the northern Jordan Valley that killed two Arabs and lightly wounded eight Israeli soldiers and an Arab bystander."]

Mordekhay Comments on Security in South Lebanon

TA1704093793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Interview with Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the IDF Northern Command, by Yo'av Aviv; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Aviv] Hizballah operations have recently become more professional from the military point of view. What is the real capability of this organization?

[Mordekhay] We know very well what happened in all the direct clashes with Hizballah terrorists: The Hizballah men suffered casualties and had to flee the area with their wounded. Suffice it to note that since the beginning of 1993 approximately 20 terrorists have been killed and about 10 wounded, possibly even more. This is certainly a large number. Hizballah terrorists and those who send them cannot boast any achievement. Hizballah and other organizations, either working with it or independently of it, do have a capability. But all in all,

when we examine the overall operational capability of Hizballah, I do not find that this organization is operationally on a higher level than other organizations—I believe it is even lower. There are improvements in Hizballah's abilities, but they do not constitute a problem for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The problem is encountered when there is no direct clash, when Hizballah plants roadside bombs in the area—here we do notice an improvement. Unfortunately, last week's incident cost us dearly, as three paratroopers died. Since the beginning of 1993 the IDF has suffered five casualties, all of them victims of roadside bombs.

[Aviv] The Palestinian terror organizations have recently resumed their operations in south Lebanon. What is the reason for this and how is the IDF preparing to cope with them?

[Mordekhay] As far as Hizballah is concerned, they are prompted to act against us first of all by Lebanon. In addition, there is the aid, encouragement and support of Iran, as well as the tacit agreement of Syria. The Palestinian elements have recently renewed their activity as a result of the processes in the Middle East and other places: The events in the territories and in Israel, the peace negotiations, and the deportees affair. All these factors have encouraged the Palestinian organizations to revive their operations in the security zone and against Israel.

[Aviv] The forces operating in the Lebanese arena have changed over the last few years. Maj. Gen. Mordekhay says that the methods of dealing with the terror organizations have also changed:

[Mordekhay] In the past we had clear targets to strike, because the terrorists had bases, installations, and semimilitary networks which were established in the area. The situation in Lebanon has profoundly changed. Today there is a Lebanese Government and a Lebanese Army which is in control of large areas of Lebanon, even if under the auspices of Syria and with the assistance of other elements. There is a certain area left open between the area under the Lebanese Army control and the security zone—we call this the grey zone. In this grey zone the residents of south Lebanon live, and the Hizballah squads come out of this population. The partial targets that we still have are located within the villages, the casbahs, and the mosques. The terrorists behave as civilians for all purposes and carry out a sort of guerrilla warfare of strike and run and of planting roadside bombs. Our operations are adjusted according to their activities.

[Aviv] How do you see the duties of the Lebanese Army in this situation?

[Mordekhay] The Lebanese Army claims to be responsible for what is happening in Lebanon. The Lebanese Government also claims to be in control of Lebanon. I regard the Lebanese Army and Government as primarily responsible for what is happening in the territory under their control and influence. I have no doubt that if the Lebanese Army and Government had decided to act courageously and extensively against Hizballah and other organizations they could have minimized and even obliterated the operations of Hizballah and other organizations in this grey zone. For various reasons, this is not happening, perhaps because the Syrians and Iranians are not allowing them to do what they have to do.

[Aviv] The peace talks are about to be resumed. Do you believe that the terrorists will try to escalate the situation?

[Mordekhay] I believe that on the eve of the peace talks' resumption, and with an eye toward Memorial Day and Independence Day, Hizballah and other terror organizations will step up their efforts to carry out attacks in the security zone and perhaps even Israel itself. We are doing everything possible, with the forces and resources at our disposal, to foil their intentions and make them pay dearly for their efforts.

[Aviv] In Lebanon a real war is being waged, and not a day passes without terrorist activity against the IDF, the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and Israel. Maj. Gen. Mordekhay believes that there are actually no differences between Israel and Lebanon. Israel is demanding that its northern border remain calm, and Lebanon must see to that. Mordekhay believes it will be possible to reach a peace arrangement in Lebanon. First, however, Lebanon must desire this, and at this stage it is not entirely up to Lebanon. Maj. Gen. Mordekhay believes, therefore, that a long time will pass until the signing of a peace agreement with Lebanon.

Security Says Hizballah Attacks Under Syrian Auspices

TA1604073493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Security sources in Israel say that Hizballah terrorist attacks are being carried out under Syrian auspices on the assumption that this will not harm the peace talks. Our army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports:

The attacks in Lebanon against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] over the past two days do not constitute a new phenomenon or the start of a renewed escalation in the security zone, security sources believe. They said the latest katyusha shelling of the security zone should be seen as related to the roadside bomb attack, in which three paratroopers were killed and two other soldiers were seriously wounded.

Although the Palestinian organizations continue to be active in south Lebanon, Hizballah is responsible for the attacks that took place over the past two days. The organization takes its inspiration from Tehran, which is trying to sabotage the peace process, the Israeli security sources said. The Syrians have chosen to walk a tightrope, the sources added. On the one hand, Syria permits Hizballah freedom of action; had it wanted to, it could have prevented the latest attacks. On the other hand,

al-Asad is not interested in stopping the political process. In the Syrian president's view, the latest events in Lebanon will not harm the upcoming round of talks, the sources said. Israeli forces are now also trying to restore calm to the region, the sources added.

Police Disperse Pro-Syrian Druze Protest in Golan

TA1704110593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Police on the Golan Heights this morning succeeded in putting a stop to riots by hundreds of young Druze in Majdal Shams. The Druze began throwing stones from rooftops at security forces trying to maintain calm during protests on Syria's independence day. During the disturbances 10 policemen were lightly hurt and one was hospitalized. The police used tear gas to disperse the rioters and arrested several of them.

Network of Israeli Arabs, Gazans Uncovered

TA1504104793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] The security services and the police have uncovered a network of Israeli Arabs and Gazans who helped activists in terrorist organizations in the territories obtain arms and equipment to be used in attacks. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that seven of the suspects live in Arab villages in the Wadi 'Ara area, while two are Gaza residents. A revolver and 300 bullets meant for Fatah activists in Janin and the Gaza Strip were found in the possession of one of the suspects, and others were found to have ammunition and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] uniforms.

Indictments against some of the suspects have already been prepared. Our correspondent notes that the band is also suspected of stealing vehicles in Israel and transferring them to the territories in order to dismantle them for spare parts.

Lubrani: Iran 'Sole Obstacle' to POW Exchange

TA1604055493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of activities in Lebanon, has said that Iran is the sole obstacle to negotiations on a prisoner exchange in return for six missing Israeli soldiers. In an interview to the SLA's [South Lebanese Army] Voice of the South radio station, Lubrani said that Iran is also putting up obstacles by refusing to admit that it is holding navigator Ron Arad, thereby preventing an overall solution to the problem.

This refers to Hizballah and Amal demands to release 300 detainees from the al-Khiyam camp in south Lebanon. Israel freed 15 detainees from that jail prior to 'Id al-Fitr and, in return, a Lebanese driver and the body of a Lebanese doctor held by Hizballah were returned. The exchange of prisoners has since ceased.

Settlers Apply for Permits for New Golan Settlement

TA1504044093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Golan Heights residents are pressing the government to establish a new settlement at Nimrod on the southern slopes of Mount Hermon. Today the settlement nucleus, which comprises seven families and seven singles—mostly from religious settlements on the Golan—will move to Moshav Odem in the Golan. They hope to receive the necessary permits within six weeks to set up a permanent settlement. [passage omitted]

In response, Defense Ministry spokesman 'Oded Ben-'Ami said an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Nahal outpost is situated at the site of Nimrod and will remain there.

PLO Political Department Head Visits 17-18 Apr

Explains 'Demands' on Talks

JN1704202493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2008 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has urged the United States to respond to the Palestinian demands and to assume in full its role in the peace process so that the obstacles facing the convening of the ninth round of peace talks can be removed.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency upon arrival this evening in Amman on his way to Cairo, Qaddumi said: The Palestinian demands that are necessary for the resumption of peace talks are based on putting an end to the siege imposed on the Palestinian people in the occupied territories; resolving once and for all the problem of the Palestinians deported last year, as well as those deported since 1967; and confirming Israel's commitment to the international terms of reference and the UN resolutions, on whose basis the peace process was launched. He also stressed that these resolutions should cover Jerusalem, which, he said, is our main concern and tops our list of demands.

Meets Bin-Shakir, Departs

JN1804123593 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has received Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization. They discussed the outcome of the coordination meeting in Damascus of the Arab parties participating in the Middle East peace process. The two sides underlined their commitment to a unified Arab position and the necessity to remove obstacles hindering the peace process. They also underlined the need to create a suitable atmosphere to resume the peace negotiations.

Following the meeting, Mr. Qaddumi told reporters that Palestinians are keen to resume the Arab-Israeli talks on schedule. But, he said, Israel must take back the Palestinian expellees and end the siege of the occupied Arab territories. Mr. Qaddumi left Amman for Cairo before noon today to attend the ministerial meeting of the Arab League Council.

'Arafat, Other Officials Arrive 19 Apr

JN2004083993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Amman late last night on a visit to Jordan during which he will meet with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan the regent, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and ranking officials. He will also meet with the Palestinian delegation participating in the peace talks.

'Arafat was welcomed by 'Ali al-Suhaymat, deputy prime minister and transport minister, and the Palestinian ambasador in Amman.

'Arafat is accompanied by PLO Executive Committee Members Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Sulayman al-Najjab; Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Advisory Council of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations; Dr.Hanan 'Ashrawi, the Palestinian delegation's official spokesperson; and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, delegation member.

Further on U.S. CENTCOM Commander Visit

Confers With Prince Hasan

JN1904161893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning General Joseph Hoar, commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command, and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting, they discussed the existing cordial relations between the two countries, the bases of joint cooperation, and ways of bolstering relations and cooperation in various areas.

His highness the crown prince also reviewed political developments and changes both in the Arab and international arenas, and answered the questions the guest delegation posed to him.

At the end of the meeting, the head of the guest delegation thanked his highness the regent for his welcome and praised the existing relations between the two friendly countries, as well as the hospitality accorded to the delegation in Jordan. The meeting was attended by the chief of staff of the Royal Jordanian Ground Forces and the director of the General Command Office. It was also attended by the U.S. ambassador, General Hoar's political adviser, and the U.S. defense attache in Amman.

Departs 19 Apr

JN1904202093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Apr 03

[Text] General Joseph Hoar, commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command, and the delegation accompanying him, left Amman this evening after a visit to the kingdom lasting several days. He was seen off at the airport by Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al- Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the chief of staff of the Royal Ground Forces; the assistant to the chief of staff for operations and training; the chief of staff of the Royal Jordanian Air Force; and the U.S. ambassador and the U.S. military attache in Amman.

U.S. Navy Diverts Ship From al-'Aqabah

JN1904184993 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1540 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Amman, 19 Apr (PETRA)—The U.S. Cruiser 969 [as received], operating within the allied forces monitoring shipping activity at the entrance to the Port of al-'Aqabah, on 18 April 1993 banned the ship Omdurman, chartered by the Jordan National Shipping Lines Company [JNSLC] and flying the Sudanese flag, from entering the port. The ship carried commodities and other goods for the Jordanian market.

JNSLC Director General Yasir al-Tall said that the U.S. forces refused to allow the ship to head for the port under the pretext that it was hard to get access to, and inspect every container aboard the ship. This, he said, conflicts with similar rules of maritime inspection operations.

The ship was diverted to the Port of Suez to unload part of the cargo and stack up another part to be inspected again when the ship returns. This will cost the company large amounts of money, in addition to the damage Jordanian merchants and the national economy in general will sustain, on the understanding that the JNSLC is totally committed to the Sanctions Committee's instructions regarding transportation operations to the Port of al-'Aqabah.

Al-Tall also said that the inspection forces have returned three ships over the past month. It was noticed that returning these ships coincided with the replacement of the inspection team in the region. Therefore, the whole matter was subject to the team's mood and its inexperience in inspection issues.

Delegation Returns From IPU Conference 19 Apr

JN1904120593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Excerpt] House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat and an accompanying Jordanian parliamentary delegation returned to Amman this morning after representing Jordan in the meetings of the International Parliamentary Union, which were held in India. [passage omitted]

Ambassador to U.S. Presents Credentials

JN1604144093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton received the credentials of Jordan's ambassador in Washington, Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, during a ceremony held for this purpose at the White House on Wednesday [14 April].

Ambassador al-Tarawinah relayed the greetings of His Majesty King Husayn and those of the Jordanian Government and people to President Clinton and the American people. During the ceremony, the U.S. President expressed his extreme admiration for His Majesty King Husayn, as well as the respect and appreciation he harbors toward his majesty the king. Furthermore, U.S. President Clinton voiced his country's support for the march of freedom and democracy prevailing in Jordan under his majesty the king. He also affirmed his country's commitment to work to help achieve progress in the peace process toward a just, durable, and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict.

The U.S. President noted that the United States will do its best to help achieve progress in the negotiations, pledging that it will play an influential role in rendering them a success.

For his part, Dr. al-Tarawinah affirmed Jordan's commitment to work toward a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict. He affirmed that the achievement of a durable peace requires that the crux of the conflict be addressed, in accordance with the principles of justice and international legitimacy, to help produce a comprehensive solution.

The ambassador also reviewed the democratization process in Jordan, underscoring that it is an option emanating from the belief of both the leadership and the Jordanian people that it is the course that could lead to prosperity and progress.

With respect to bilateral ties, the U.S. President and Dr. al-Tarawinah affirmed the need to work to enhance and promote bilateral ties in all spheres in the interest of the two countries.

Royal Decree Issued on Press, Publication Law

JN1804105193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Apr 93 p 1, 24

[Excerpt] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—In accordance with Article 31 of the Constitution and based on what has been been decided by the Senate and the House of Representatives, a royal decree has been issued endorsing and ordering the issuance of the Press and Publication Law No. 10 of 1993, the Economic Crimes Law No. 11 of 1993, and the Law on Handicapped People No. 12 of 1993. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Takes Responsibility for 16 Apr Bombing

NC1704170493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1635 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] The pro-Iranian Hizballah-Palestine organization claimed responsibility today in Beirut for the suicide car bombing that took place in the West Bank yesterday. Eight Israeli soldiers were injured in the incident. The organization issued a statement saying that the man who carried out the operation was named Muhammad Abu-al-'Abd. The operation was code-named Great Martyr Misbah al-Suri, after one of the first martyrs of the intifadah.

Egyptians, Armed Men Arrested at Syrian Border

NC1804074293 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Citing a security source in Ba'labakk, AFP reports that Lebanese police yesterday arrested 83 Egyptians on the Lebanese- Syrian border who tried to enter Lebanon illegally for work.

The source added that six non-Lebanese armed men accompanying the Egyptians were arrested in Ma'rabun after they clashed briefly with security forces. There were no casualties.

Palestinian Dentist 'Assassinated' in Sidon

NC1904091293 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Two gunmen at approximately 1000 this morning assassinated dentist Ibrahim Turkiyah, 46, official in charge of the dentistry clinics operated by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Sidon and the south. The gunmen shot Turkiyah with two 7-mm pistols equipped with silencers as he was emerging from the al-Barrad building in Sidon. He was hit by 11 bullets.

Shelling in South Causes Damage 19 Apr

NC2004122593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] At 2300 yesterday, the enemy fired about 15 artillery shells on the outskirts of Shaqra from positions on Shaykh 'Abbadah hill, causing material damage and alarming the people, who rushed to the shelters. The Iqlim al-Tuffah Heights also came under Israeli shelling.

Al-Rantisi 'Rejects Any Compromises' on Deportees

TA1904194793 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 2

[By QUDS PRESS correspondent, special to AL-QUDS]

[Excerpt] Marj al-Zuhur, South Lebanon—Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, the Palestinian deportees' spokesman in south Lebanon, rejected any compromises that might be proposed for ending the deportee issue, which entered its fifth month a few days ago without any signs in the horizon of a breakthrough in the crisis that continues to hamper the participation of the Palestinian delegation and the other Arab delegations in the peace talks launched by the Madrid Conference for solving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In an exclusive interview with QUDS PRESS, al-Rantisi said that "the only solution was implementation of Resolution 799." He pointed out, however, that "if Israel declares its commitment not to resort to deportation again, then we shall adopt a different stance." Al-Rantisi refused to specify that stance before Israel's acknowledgment of the illegitimacy of deportation as a punishment against Palestinian activists in the occupied territories.

Dr. al-Rantisi, who leads some 400 deportees expelled by the Israeli authorities to south Lebanon four months ago, denied that any pressure was being applied on the deportees. He also denied the existence of contacts between the deportees and the Arab parties taking part in the peace talks, or contacts with other parties.

On a question about the deportees' relations with the Palestinian negotiating delegation and the PLO leadership, al-Rantisi said that there is no quarrel between the deportees and the Palestinian delegation.

Al-Rantisi also denied the existence of disputes between the deportees and the PLO, noting that the deportees' dispute was with Israel alone. He accused the U.S. Administration of maintaining a biased stance toward Israel that was unprecedented in any previous administration in the United States. Al-Rantisi expressed his agreement, in principle, to visit the United Nations and deliver a speech there in the name of the deportees.

Dr. al-Rantisi stressed the lack of differences among the deportees and noted that the disagreements that occur sometimes are only over marginal issues. He said that the deportees stopped their march toward the Zummarayya crossing point last Friday because "it bore fruit"—in reference to the Palestinian delegation's request to postpone the ninth round that was expected to be held on Tuesday.

Al-Rantisi added that the deportees will resume their march if the international community ignores our problem again. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Meets With PLO's 'Arafat 19 Apr

JN2004061293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1645 yesterday PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, accompanied by Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Abd- Rabbuh, Sulayman al-Najjab, Hanan 'Ashrawi, Faysal al-Husayni, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al- Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur.

Talks dealt with the situation in the region, the peace process, and the difficulties and obstacles facing this process. A working dinner was hosted during the meeting.

'Arafat Says Syria, U.S. Propose 27 Apr Talks

NC1904200393 Paris AFP in English 1857 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Damascus, April 19 (AFP)—Syria and the United States have proposed restarting the Middle East peace negotiations on April 27, PLO Chairman 'Yasir 'Arafat said Monday before meeting Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

"Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher agreed on this date," 'Arafat was quoted as saying by journalists on the plane from Cairo to Latakia, Syria. [passage omitted]

"I hope that the obstacles will be removed by then and that there will be no other delay," Arafat was quoted as saying.

'Arafat said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Palestinian delegates to the peace talks were to meet in Amman, Jordan, later Monday to formulate a position on the negotiations.

This position will then be communicated to the meeting in Damascus of the other Arab parties to the talks—Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. The meeting is to decide on Arab conditions for resuming the peace talks.

Al-Shar', who was in the same plane with 'Arafat, refused to mention a date for the resumption of the talks.

Journalists travelling with him quoted him as saying that the Damascus meeting would announce "a common Arab position and nothing will be revealed before then."

'Arafat said he was going to examine "in detail" with President al-Asad all obstacles blocking the peace process. [passage omitted]

Journalists asked al-Shar' about U.S. assurances about the terms of the peace talks, and reportedly replied: "contacts are continuing on this subject."

'Arafat said the Palestinians wanted to delay the talks because Israel had not resolved the crisis over its deportation of Palestinians to Lebanon in December as well as those deported previously. They were also unhappy with the closure of the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank last month, which he reportedly described as a "second occupation." [passage omitted]

TISHRIN Urges Unified Arab Stand

JN2004094293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 20 Apr 93

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN's editorial discusses the peace process and the intransigent Israeli policy aimed at obstructing this process.

Under the headline "Rabin's Fireballs and the Arab Fold," TISHRIN says: The peace process is suffering a grave crisis, represented by failure to achieve any breakthrough in the past eight rounds. It has become obvious to everyone that the negotiations stumbled because of Israel's intransigence and lack of desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. In other words, Israel insists on the policy of occupation and aggression. The Arabs, on the other hand, have exerted sincere efforts to render the peace process a success and enable it to attain its objectives; namely, regaining the occupied territories and recognizing the usurped pan-Arab rights. However, the continued Israeli rejection made the negotiations move in a vicious circle.

TISHRIN adds: Damascus is aware of the aim of this Israeli plan. Therefore, Damascus has been extremely eager to tackle all matters pertaining to the peace process with wisdom and much consideration, inspired by the pan-Arab interest. This position was obvious in the meeting of the cordon states' foreign ministers. Syria continues to exert great efforts to maintain the unity of the Arab stand.

TISHRIN continues: The Arabs have waged the battle for peace with high efficiency, thus achieving positive results by convincing the world that the Arab policy toward peace is serious, and by exposing Israel's aggressive and expansionist nature. Therefore, it should be clear that the current crisis in the peace process was caused by Israel.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Awareness of this reality should be an additional incentive for the Arabs to ignore all marginal differences, adhere to coordination, and adopt a unified stand.

Al-Asad Receives Egyptian Foreign Minister

JN1604122393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] At 1230 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Explains Dissolution of Cabinet

LD1604181393 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 0905 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Interview with Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar by Mohammad Besharat, head of Radio-TV at Message of Freedom; place not given; "yesterday"; read by announcer—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

The head of Radio-TV Message of Freedom began as follows:

First of all, I thank you that, despite your heavy schedule, you granted us time for this interview.

Question: A serious question is now before our Muslim compatriots. In what phase is the process of the implementation of the Islamabad agreement?

Answer: It was necessary that simultaneously with the signing of the Islamabad agreement, a new cabinet be formed within two weeks to replace the previous cabinet. The consultations in Jalalabad should have been completed in this time. This was the proposal put forward by all Jihadi formations that, after returning from a tour of neighboring countries, a meeting should have been held concerning the formation of the new cabinet and that should have been finalized. It should have been announced without delay.

Unfortunately some leaders did not take part in the Jalalabad meeting and sent unauthorized representatives to take part.

However, the majority of formations took part at the meeting with complete sincerity. Their leaders were personally present or sent authorized representatives. We wanted to finalize the formation of the cabinet in Jalalabad, and we had consulted and obtained the opinion of the majority of leaders. All of them had introduced to me their candidates for each ministry in connection with the distribution of ministries in accordance with the proposals and share of every party. In this regard, I have written documents signed by the leaders. In accordance with these documents, they have proposed their candidates for each ministry and have stated their opinions. They agreed that if the prime minister selects anyone from those lists, they would be satisfied.

I was ready at that meeting to present the cabinet list to the head of state for official announcement. However, as a result of demands by the representatives of Ostad [Borhanoddin] Rabbani and Ostad [Abdorrasul] Sayaf, the announcement of the cabinet was postponed until 9 Hamal [29 March]. On 9 Hamal, a final meeting was convened in Charasiab and the cabinet was finalized. The leaders were dutybound to take part at this meeting. If someone could not take part at the meeting, he did not have the right to a subsequent complaint or objection. We told the representatives of the opposition side that the presence of your leader may be difficult in the Charasiab meeting. They said it was not so, the matter was solved, and the leaders will definitely take part at the meeting. If you selected the cabinet in any manner after the meeting—if our leaders take part or not in the meeting, we will accept the cabinet. They put this in writing and the (?representative) of every formation signed it.

The meeting was thus postponed. We believed that they would have the opportunity for understanding and the matter would be resolved. We did not expect the postponement of the meeting by them. We did not expect them to delay the formation of the cabinet, and thus allow the Islamabad agreement to lose its effectiveness and importance gradually with the passing of time. Therefore, in order to avoid controversy, I accepted their request and proposals. It was agreed that the cabinet should be formed within two weeks time. In principle, they should have remained loyal to their pledge and should have come to the meeting with full authority. We wanted the matter to be solved. Our aim was not to blame the other side. We wanted the cabinet to be formed in accordance with the wishes and unanimity of all formations, and no place whatsoever should have remained for objections and complaints. We postponed the meeting for a full nine days. We expected all the leaders or their representatives to take part at the Charasiab meeting.

However, unfortunately the same groups who wanted the postponement of the meeting here too were trying to prevent the final decision in connection with the formation of the cabinet. They again asked for the meeting to be delayed for one or two days and then they demanded that it be postponed for several days. We gave them the opportunity, and they told even the members of other formations not to take part at the meeting.

Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi had promised and was ready to come to the meeting when a delegation went to him from the opposition side to ask him not to take part at the meeting. Pir Sayd Ahmad Gaylani was, in a similar manner, ready to take part at the Charasiab meeting, who too could not take part in the meeting as a result of their insistence. The representatives of Harakat-e Eslami of Shaykh Asef Mohseni wanted to take part at the meeting; however, the opposition prevented them from taking part. In fact, the opposition side wanted no decision to be made in connection with the formation of the cabinet in accordance with the Islamabad agreement.

In particular, at the Jalalabad meeting concerning the Islamabad agreement, when leaders and their representatives had unitedly participated, the cabinet should have been formed then under the agreement. It was because of the opposing side that the cabinet was not formed.

Finally, we formed the cabinet and submitted it to the head of state for official announcement in line with the agreement.

Unfortunately, since that day, incorrect and negative propaganda has been unleashed concerning the cabinet. While so far the list of the cabinet has not been sent to other formations, and the leaders have not expressed an opinion regarding the cabinet, they [Rabbani and supporters], on behalf of all the formations, say that the majority of parties have not accepted the cabinet. I ask: Who are the majority of these parties? Who has granted you the right to embody and represent them? Can they not represent themselves, so they must act according to your wishes?

The fact is that the parties have not opposed the cabinet, nor is there anyplace left for opposition to it. They have handed over to me the list of their [candidate] members, and I have formed the cabinet in accordance with their proposals.

It was decided in the Jalalabad meeting that the representatives of every formation should be separately met and their views listened to, and the cabinet should be formed in accordance with that, and it is not necessary to convene a joint meeting for further discussion. No one should have the right to future objection.

In Jalalabad, it was also decided that whichever formation that did not take part at the Charasiab meeting would not have the right to object. Now, in consideration of the decisions and pledges, the cabinet has been formed, and I do not know how, under Shariah and the law, they can consider it right that they object to this. If we accept that some formations have not been satisfied with the formation of the cabinet and the distribution of ministries, I ask them, why then are other articles of the agreement not being implemented? It was necessary for all prisoners to have been released simultaneously with the signing of the agreement. Why are the prisoners being kept in prison until today? The agreement states and several delegations have demanded that all prisoners be released unconditionally.

As prime minister, I officially wrote to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and ordered that all prisoners be released unconditionally. Why are they keeping these prisoners until this day despite all decisions and pledges?

It was agreed upon that a joint commission should be formed in order to supervise the affairs of the Defense Ministry and all army units should be administered, dispatched, and supplied by that commission. The majority of formations introduced their representatives to this commission. Why has Jami'at [-e Eslami; Islamic Society] not introduced its representatives until now? Separate commissions were agreed upon to supervise the delivery of foodstuffs and fuel and that of financial and banking affairs, and all the formations have introduced their representatives to these commissions.

However, Jamiat has refrained from sending its representatives to these commissions. The formation of a yet another commission was agreed upon to supervise the cease-fire, and the majority of formations have sent their representatives, but Jamiat has not sent its representatives. What are the reasons for all these? From (?the behavior) of the opposition, it is quite clear that it does not deem itself bound by the Islamabad agreement and is trying to bring about the violation of this agreement and ensure that gradually its effectiveness and importance are lost. They clearly announced, through radio and television, that the time of the Islamabad agreement is passed.

I do not know how a member of this state can allow himself to unleash abusive propaganda against the agreement; an agreement under which the head of state, the prime minister, and leaders of all parties have signed and the neighboring countries have endorsed it as witnesses. The pledge has been renewed in Islamabad and in Mecca [Saudi Arabia] and has been signed for the second time. Now a member of the state says that the Islamabad agreement has defects, and it should be approved by the parliament. Which parliament? The parliament that is of one party and has no credibility and prestige whatsoever?

Seven parties out of nine have opposed that. It has been agreed that elections should be held for a new parliament in three to eight months and that an elected constitutional council is to be formed for the approval of the Constitution. However, they officially declare through radio that the Islamabad agreement is defective and the parliament should approve it. It means that they do not consider themselves bound to this agreement.

Thus, the behavior of the opposition is indicative of the fact that they do not respect that agreement. They announced last night that the agreement has been violated because missiles have been fired at the presidential palace. If you consider the firing of missiles on the palace a violation of the agreement, then tell me a single day that has passed without you firing missiles at the positions of others in Kabul? Show me the hour and the day that during the process of talks and after the Islamabad agreement that missiles have not been fired on the positions of others. It was necessary for the commission supervising the cease-fire to make a decision on this and not (?for you unilaterally to put the blame for) the cease-fire violation and declare that thus the agreement has been violated. The commission supervising the cease-fire should decide which side has violated the cease-fire agreement and who is to be blamed, who is wrong.

It is quite obvious from their statements and utterances and the lack of respect and [word indistinct] to the agreement that, contrary to the will and wishes of the Muslim Afghan nation, they do not want the crisis in Afghanistan to be resolved in accordance with the peace agreement of Islamabad. In order to remain in power,

they are seeking [words indistinct] other ways and only use talks and negotiations as tools in order to gain time.

Question: You have pointed out that the opposition, by gaining time, intends to weaken the effectiveness and importance of the accord [words indistinct]. It is now two weeks since you handed over the list of the cabinet to the president, but they have not yet announced it. My question has two parts: first why [words indistinct] if they continue delaying the announcement of the cabinet have you already thought of any other approach that may accelerate the announcement of the cabinet or any other actual plan?

Answer: I must say that in accordance with the Islamabad accord, two duties have been given to the president regarding the cabinet. One is the formal announcement of the cabinet and the other is the execution of the oath ceremony. The list of the cabinet has not been sent to the president for approval, and he has no right to change or alter the list of cabinet. This right has not been given to the head of state to say whether all formations agree to it or not, or to listen to their complaints and thus refuse to announce the list of cabinet. Two weeks was the time period agreed upon for consultation before the preparation of the cabinet list, and the authority of the head of state in this respect is the same as any other formation leader. This accord gives no special privilege to the head of state in comparison to any other leaders. While the accord specifies two weeks for consultation, we have extended it to four weeks, so that no one can have any excuse or complaint. It is my duty to say that the job has been completed and the cabinet is being formed with the agreement of all formations. For this purpose, we did not announce the cabinet in Jalalabad and postponed it to a session to be held in Charasiab. Therefore, refraining from announcing the cabinet is contrary to the text of accord; and the formations have not given authority to the head of state to make complaints on behalf of them regarding the cabinet.

I wanted them [not further specified] to carry out the task of (?announcing) the cabinet; and if they have any complaint, then they can change and alter it so that the cabinet can be quickly announced. They have not said anything on this, nor have they become ready to argue over the cabinet. This is merely a pretext alleging that some formations have made complaints regarding the cabinet. The fact is that only one issue has been raised by them [Rabbani and supporters] in the Pol-e Charkhi session, and this was the allocation of the Ministry of Defense to them. I wish they had said that they are only after the Ministry of Defense, and this post could have been given to them in the cabinet list. The issue of complaints by other formations is nothing but an excuse. I wish the head of state had said to me at the Pol-e Charkhi session that such and such formations would satisfy them, if such and such a ministry were given to them, then I would have solved their problem.

[Words indistinct] I wanted the Ministry of Interior and Foreign Ministry to be given to other formations, but because of insistence by the opposite side, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been given to them. If the head of the state followed this line that such and such formations would be satisfied with such ministries, I would have been ready to alter the list. But they have only insisted that the Ministry of Defense should be given to Jamiat and the Ministry of Interior should be given to Ustad Sayyaf. With the exception of this issue, no other issue was raised, but the words were already said in Jalalabad, Islamabad, and Charasiab.

I said to him: If you do not have any [word indistinct] then talks would not produce any result. One year was enough for you to run the Ministry of Defense. During the past year, you were running the Ministry of Defense, presidency, and eight other ministries in the cabinet. All the deputy ministers were also appointed by you, and all affairs of the government were formally usurped by you.

Despite this, you could not restore security in the country and could not prevent fighting. Bloody clashes then flared up in Kabul; most parts of the city were destroyed; thousands were forced to immigrate. You are unable to administer the country. If you have accomplished any worthy cause, I pray to almighty God to give you a reward, and if you have committed any sin, then I pray to almighty God to forgive you, and I will satisfied with this.

Let us reorganize the Ministry of Defense in such a way that it is acceptable to all formations and choose someone as minister of defense who has not involved himself in fighting with other formations. In such a way, we can form an Islamic and national army; an army in accordance with the wishes of the nation as a whole, not in accordance with the wishes of only one formation. Thus we can collect (?weapons) and restore peace and security in the country.

I said to the opposite side: How can you ask me to say to the commanders of Hezb [e-Wahdat] [Islamic Unity Party] to hand over your heavy weaponry to the very minister of defense who has been fighting against them for one whole year? How can I convince the mojahedin? If you want the issue to be solved, I am ready, and I have said that the Ministry of Defense can be run by a shura [council]. A shura that is jointly formed by all formations, that is to say the very council upon which agreement was reached in the Islamabad accord. This shura, in consultation with each other, will select a chairman; not as a minister of defense. It does not have to have a chairman. This defense council should administer all affairs of the Ministry of Defense. I accept such an arrangement.

Whoever is acceptable to all formations at the level of the Afghan nation, I will appoint such a person minister of defense. With the exception of Mas'ud, we can appoint other personalities from the formations as minister of defense. Unfortunately, for this reason, the cabinet announcement has been delayed. I am now obliged, and it is hoped the list of cabinet will be

announced during the current week. The consequences stemming from the cabinet announcement is that responsibility will rest on them.

I am obliged to act as a lawful government. I did not want to take part in the government; I wanted the leaders to remain outside the government and let those take part in the government who are acceptable to all. A provisional government is to be formed in which noncontroversial individuals take part, whether they are attached to any formation or not. Elections then can be held within six months. Now that I have been appointed as head of the government, I am acting as prime minister. I have formed the cabinet who will bear future responsibilities.

Question: Feelings have been generated among the people of our society in connection with the Islamabad accord. One of its main causes is said to be some hidden act or event behind this accord; that is to say, there are people who want to put in practice their unilateral political objectives in Afghanistan and to defeat other forces, but they actually failed [words indistinct] the current opposition to the existing accord more or less means preparation for war. What is you opinion? What factors provide hope for the opposition? [as heard]

Answer: I must say that the talks were held after the opposition began fighting with pride, but they were confronted with shameless defeat. With arrogance, they launched an attack on the trenches of Hezb, but they were pushed back. They received heavy losses of life and material, and they lost their trenches. They faced a total defeat in all of their plans. They were forced to open the gate to talks and to start talking. I thought that they would never wish to fight, as they have already tasted the bitter experience of war. Unfortunately, I did not see that they seek their life and survival through war. They regard every peaceful process as something against [word indistinct]. In particular, when one wants to go against the nation's vote and wish. They want to remain in power by hatching conspiracies, coups, and fighting, and they believe that only such a way is open to them.

Since signing the accord, you noticed that they have been making preparations for war. They have dug in trenches and started firing continuously at the others' trenches.

Some countries encourage them and say to them they are ready for cooperation and assistance, so that the Afghanistan issue is not being solved and a powerful Islamic government cannot be established in the country.

Innumerable delegations from various countries came to Kabul in this period and encouraged them, so that the agreement is violated and an Islamic government cannot be formed. Some circles are even seeking to revive the previous coalition, and now a delegation has come from Moscow and is engaged in negotiations with them. Farid Mazdak, Najmoddin Kawiani, Mohtat [Abdol Hamid], and other Communists have been dispatched from Moscow to revive the previous coalition. Delegations from Communist Parties from Islamic countries and a delegation has come to Kabul from India and has expressed its readiness to cooperate with and support the opposition side.

We guess that the opposition side intends to dishonor the agreement in order to attract the assistance of the aforementioned sides. It is obvious that they know that they cannot achieve anything through war. They may be interested in war so as to attract support and help from those countries. Without this, I cannot see any other justification. Otherwise, if a normal and noble human being pledges to someone on a matter (?concealed) from the people, to go back on or deny such a pledge, it is considered a matter of shame, and no matter what happens, such a pledge should be kept—whereas when it is a matter related to the fate of a nation and has been pledged before all the people of the world and has been signed under pledge, and all people of the world have witnessed it—and the pledge has been renewed once again outside the country in Mecca and Medina [holy shrines in Saudi Arabia] and the whole world has witnessed it—in such a situation, betraying the agreement, in my opinion, is a matter of surprise.

It is contrary to the honor, charity, courage, and the faith of a Muslim. How could they betray such an agreement, while they have followed it step by step, and are sufficiently aware of every paragraph of it? They might be trying to test war once again. If they have not achieved anything in the previous battles, they may possibly achieve their wishes.

It is because of this that they are digging trenches and are even trying to drag other parties into the war and are promising them privileges. I tell them this: help was on your side and tested once through war and did not achieve anything. You are once again trying to attract help. Is it possible that, after trampling underfoot your principles, you will achieve results that will be something more than you have achieved in the past? It is better to go to the nation and show mercy on the persecuted nation and adhere to the agreement so that the question of Afghanistan is solved through it.

Question: Last night a spokesman of Shura-e Nezar [supervisory council] spoke about military developments in Naghlu and the dissolution of the previous cabinet by you and considered it a step toward the violation of the Islamabad agreement. We would like you to shed light on this matter.

Answer: The dissolution of the previous cabinet was not carried out by me. However, after consultation and discussion with all parties, the Islamabad agreement and its signing means that the previous cabinet is dissolved. It has been pledged in the agreement that a new cabinet should be formed within two weeks. The meaning of this agreement is that, after the elapse of two weeks, the previous cabinet has no credibility and validity whatsoever.

You ask the head of state: why did he sign the agreement, an agreement which means the dissolution of the previous cabinet? It was necessary that during those two

weeks a new cabinet be formed and take the place of the previous cabinet. At the time I was appointed prime minister, the authority to dissolve the cabinet was given to me, and the way was opened for the formation of a new cabinet. Whoever has the right to form a cabinet has the right to dissolve it too. The head of state should prove to me: who has given him the right to dissolve cabinet? Under which article and legal paragraph of documents can he prove that the right of dissolving cabinet belongs to the head of state? I base myself on reason: the previous cabinet was dissolved because the head of state, the prime minister, and leaders of jihadi formations signed the agreement stipulating that the new cabinet should take the place of the previous cabinet within two weeks, and the authority is with the prime minister.

If the issue of members of a formation in Naghlu joining Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] without a clash means the violation of the agreement, then it should have been mentioned in the Islamabad agreement that henceforth the members of one formation do not have the right to join another formation. And it should have been mentioned that if one formation accepts members from another formation, it is an unlawful act. If such was included in the Islamabad agreement and the opposition objected to it and considered it a violation of the agreement, I would have accepted it. It was necessary for the spokesman of Shura-e Nezar to object to other formations occupying centers in Fariab and disarming troops and occupying their headquarters in Mazar-e Sharif and Takhar, along with their commanders. It should have considered those too as in violation of the Islamabad agreement. A number of mojahedin in Naghlu and Tagab and a division in garrison number 60, which was based in Naghlu, pledged to Hezb-e Eslami and joined it without war and bloodshed.

I do not know why the opposition had to refute the above-mentioned joining of Hezb-e Eslami and considered it a violation of the Islamabad agreement. We are ready and say let us pledge to each other that no formation accept members of other formations, in particular by using state resources. The violation of the agreement is the fact that, in the course of this month, after the signing of the agreement, 70 billion Afghani banknotes, without backing, were sent from Moscow to Kabul and were distributed by a formation to its commanders.

This is while in the agreement it was enshrined that henceforth all financial and banking affairs should be handed over to a joint commission to supervise them.

Jamiat did not introduce its representative to this commission, so as to leave the way to abuses open to itself. If the commission was formed and began work, the unbacked banknotes would not have been imported and the unlawful use of them would not have been possible. Millions of Afghani are supplied every day to the market, and foreign currency is purchased with them. This brings down the price of the Afghani and causes famine. The price of the Afghani is spiralling.

Are these to be considered violations of the Islamabad agreement, or is it a violation when a number of mojahedin in Naghlu join Hezb- e Eslami or when the prime minister dissolves cabinet?

Question: There is another opinion that, unfortunately, esteemed Ostad Rabbani has no practical and executive authority and his words do not bear fruitful results. The power is with the opposite side, that is, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, and I believe that Mas'ud too does not hide this matter. For example, when General Hamid Gul invited Mas'ud and Rabbani to talk with you, Mas'ud told Rabbani that if Ostad Rabbani takes part and the negotiations have no result, that it is not a matter of great worry—however, if I take part in the negotiations and the negotiations fail, that will be very disappointing. Second, Mas'ud said that when Ostad Rabbani reaches an accord with you in the talks, then I will announce its final result, along with the prime minister. What is your view on this?

Answer: It was necessary for a person to take part in the talks on behalf of Jamiat who could represent Jamiat and whose decision was to be for all members of Jamiat and enjoy full authority. Unfortunately, a gap existed in the Islamabad and Jalalabad talks too, that the leader of Jamiat could not become a representative of Jamiat. A member of Jamiat says that if a leader fails in the talks, that does not differ from the failure of a member of it. It is a matter of indifference to us who represents Jamiat with full authority. We are ready, and this has not been rejected so far.

Question: It was said that the fighting going on between Hezb-e Wahdat, Ettehad, and Shura-e Nezar is because Hezb-e Wahdat is in political alliance with Hezb-e Eslami. Would Hezb remain indifferent if the fighting goes on; what is your opinion in this regard?

Answer: During the talks, before signing the accord and after the accord, the fighting continued in Kabul, and the western sections of Kabul were being fired on with heavy weapons every day, which resulted in heavy loss of life and material. All this fighting by the opposition has been taking place contrary to the commitments and agreements. Fighting does not limit itself to only one region, but spreads to other regions too. The fighting was going on around the Russian Embassy, and heavy weapons were fired on residential localities. We cannot remain indifferent to such fighting. We believe that the issue is to be resolved by peaceful means and reconciliation and (?we are faithful) regarding the Islamabad accord.

If the opposite side chose to fight and wishes to rule Afghanistan by force of tanks and artillery and impose on the people the government of the opposition's choice, then the responsibility for the consequence of such actions will rest with them. We earnestly abide by the Islamabad accord. We respect each paragraph and every article of it. We want the Afghanistan crisis to be solved by peaceful means and elections to be held within 6-8

months in the country so that the people's representatives and elected parliament can come into being and the parliament can draw up the new constitution. [words indistinct]

If the opposite side intends to remain in power through complicity and to impose on the Afghan nation their type of government, this is not acceptable. I have promised almighty God to form a government in Afghanistan based on the wish and will of the nation; and will stand up to anyone who prevents the formation of an elected Islamic government and imposes through force on the nation an un-Islamic and unelected government through complicity and coups.

Question: You have regarded the Islamabad accord as a formidable victory for the nation and for the Jihad, and regarded it as the last opportunity for the solution of Afghanistan issue. If the accord is violated again, one could no longer trust any accord and if, God forbid, fighting breaks out [word indistinct] there would be no victory or defeat. Because of this, you regarded this accord as the last opportunity for the solution of Afghanistan's problem. What is your view on this?

Answer: I suspect this is the last opportunity, and henceforth sitting beside each other and trusting one another will be very difficult, and because of this I regard it as the last opportunity [words indistinct]. Let us come and solve the Afghanistan problem on the basis of this accord, so that a durable peace can be restored in Afghanistan.

Commentary Views War, Peace Efforts

LD1904191393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1600 GMT 19 Apr 93

[BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Dear compatriots and dear listeners, the establishment of peace and security in our Islamic country is a great necessity. Because a 14 year-long war and struggle against an international great aggressor power and a year of inter [mojahedin] wars has damaged the bases of survival in all aspects. In order to rebuild these bases, the cessation of war and the establishment of security is an absolutely fundamental necessity. A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] political commentator writes:

Last year showed that a meaningless war not only had no gain for defense, but the aggressor has also achieved nothing. What was gained by our defenseless people, was martyrdom, disability, the destruction of their homes and the weakening of economic foundations. It has taken the soul and spirit of our people toward destruction. The Islamic State of Afghanistan made many efforts during the last year to save the Muslim and noble people of Afghanistan, in particular respected Kabul citizens, from the harm of war. In this regard we can cite several times announcing cease- fires, expressing readiness for talks with the involved opposition parties, granting shares to all Jehadi forces in the state and government, talks with the Jehadi leaders and various commanders, the convocation of Shura-e Ahl-e Hal wa Aqd [Solution and Settlement Council] and finally the signing of the peace agreement in Islamabad. All these tasks have been carried out under conditions when the Islamic State had complete military strength.

The most recent initiative that the Islamic State has put forward toward the establishment of peace and the elimination of clashes is [the extension] of invitation to observers of the Islamic Countries Conference [ICO] to supervise over cease-fire. It should not be forgotten that that organization is a very prestigious organization in the Islamic World and on international level. This means that the Islamic State does not want further clashes, no matter how small they may be, to disrupt the atmosphere of peace. If clash takes place those responsible to be recognized and efforts to be made to eliminate the reasons for clashes.

The BIA political observer adds: In our opinion the opponents of the State [of Afghanistan] are also interested in peace and desire to solve their differences through talks and negotiations. The signing of the Islamabad agreement is the witness to this claim. The painful incidents in Kabul showed that war does not have any benefit for those involved and cannot solve any problem, therefore problems should be solved through talks and understanding. Recognizing the present conditions and in line with the wishes of the people, the path of peace should be chosen. If small mistakes are made by one side or the other, others should exercise tolerance and instead of resorting to arms in order to eliminate such mistakes, choose the path of negotiations and understanding. Those esteemed Jehadi leaders who have signed the Islamabad agreement and the Islamic State should [?guide] their troops and forces and not allow that a small number of irresponsible persons threaten the atmosphere of peace and security in our country. Not to act in a manner as a result of which foreign motivated hands draw benefit.

India

IAEA Urged To Probe Nuclear Threat in Tibet

BK1904122093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1202 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] New Delhi, April 19 (AFP)—Tibet's government-in-exile urged the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] on Monday to send a mission to Tibet, accusing China of turning the region into a "major nuclear threat."

The demand came after the release of a report by the Washington- based International Campaign for Tibet tracing the history and role of the "Ninth Academy," an alleged top secret nuclear facility built on the Tibetan plateau.

Tashi Wangdi, foreign minister of the exile government based in the northern Indian town of Dharmsala, said the report had confirmed "what we have suspected and feared for the last three decades.

"China has created a major nuclear threat in Tibet."

The report alleges deployment of Chinese nuclear weapons in at least three sites on the Tibetan plateau and unregulated dumping of radioactive nuclear waste.

In a statement, Wangdi said the report showed that Beijing could no longer deny allegations that it had engaged in "secret nuclear programmes and in dumping of radioactive waste" in Tibet.

The Chinese nuclear activity threatened to push Asia into becoming a "nuclear danger zone," he warned.

"China's own nuclear programme and its support to Pakistani, Iranian and North Korean programmes will jeopardise the security of many Asian countries, and may eventually force countries in the region to develop their own nuclear devices."

Wangdi said the IAEA should immediately send a mission to Tibet to verify the allegations.

The exile government headed by the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual and temporal leader, is not recognised by any country.

The Dalai Lama and nearly 100,000 of his followers have lived in India since fleeing Tibet after an abortive anti-Chinese revolt in 1959.

Delhi 'Not Indifferent' to Pakistan Crisis

BK1904125493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The Lok Sabha has been told that India cannot remain indifferent toward the current developments in Pakistan. Making a suo moto statement in the House, the minister for external affairs, Mr. Dinesh Singh, said that the developments are basically Pakistan's internal affairs, but events in that country always have implications for India—both in general and in terms of our security.

Mr. Dinesh Singh said being a democracy ourselves, we would wish to see democracy flourish in Pakistan. In the prevailing situation where the elected governments have been repeatedly impeded from striking roots and gaining continuity in their policies, a phase of uncertainty in India's relations with Pakistan cannot be ruled out. He said the government will be closely watching further developments in that country.

Reacting to the developments in Pakistan, the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, has said in New Delhi that it shows that the process of transfer from military dictatorship to democracy is not complete in that country.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, says the situation of uncertainty in Pakistan, which has been traditionally hostile to India, is fraught with danger and risk. He was talking to newspersons in New Delhi today.

External Affairs Minister on Pakistan Situation

BK1904154793 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1528 GMT 19 Apr 93

["Press release: Suo moto statement by Sri Dinesh Singh, minister of external affairs, in the Lok Sabha on 19th April, 1993 on the dismissal of the Nawaz Sharif government"]

[Text] Honourable members are no doubt aware of the political events evolving in Pakistan in the recent weeks. On 18 April, 1993, the president of Pakistan, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, dismissed the government of prime minister Nawaz Sharif, dissolved the National Assembly and inducted a caretaker government with Mr. Balakh Sher Mazari as the caretaker prime minister. Other two ministers sworn in are Mr. Farooq Leghari of the Pakistan Peoples Party and Mr. Hamid Nasir Chatha of the Pakistan Muslim League. There have been general indications from the office of the president of Pakistan that elections will be held around the middle of July, after a gap of nearly two and a half months. From the remark made by the chief of Army Staff the view of Armed Forces is that the processes generated by the decisions of the president of Pakistan on 18th of April should be finally resolved either by the courts or by the people of Pakistan.

Developments in Pakistan are basically that country's internal affair. But there is no gainsaying the fact that events in this important neighbouring country always have implications for us both in general and in terms of our security. We cannot thus remain indifferent towards the situation in Pakistan.

In the prevailing situation where elected governments have been repeatedly impeded from striking roots and gaining continuity in their policies, a phase of uncertainty in our relations with Pakistan cannot be ruled out. The government will be closely following further developments.

It is, however, our hope that whichever government is in power in Pakistan, the attitude of reason and moderation will animate their policies towards us, as having a good neighbourly, working relationship with Pakistan remains a continuing objective in our policies towards that country.

Coastal Patrols To Check Pakistani Harassment

BK1904100093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The Indian Coast Guard has stepped up patrolling off the Gujarat coast to prevent incidents of harassment

of Indian fishermen by Pakistani authorities. The external affairs minister told the Lok Sabha that incidents of harassment and intimidation by Pakistani authorities were reported from time to time and 15 Indian fishing boats faced such problems during the last four months. He said New Delhi has taken up the matter with Pakistan through diplomatic channels.

Foreign Secretary on Results of G-15 Meeting

BK2004044093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The two-day meeting of permanent representatives of heads of state and government of G-15 countries ended in New Delhi today. The meeting was part of the preparatory exercise of the G-15 summit to be held in New Delhi this year.

Briefing newsmen, the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, said the meeting reviewed on-going projects and other issues of concern to the group.

[Begin recording] [Correspndent Kamini Sawhney] The group of development countries—G-15—today authorized India to open a dialogue with Japan to promote interaction with the industrialized nations, namely G-7. A meeting of the personal representatives of the heads of government of state of G-15 decided that India would send a high-level delegation to Japan, venue of the G-7 summit in July.

[Dixit] We are not going for asking for funds or specific request for assistance, but it is to have a general interaction on how a meaningful and mutually beneficial relationship can be established between the advanced countries and the developing countries. especially the G-15, in the context of the changes in the world economic environment.

[Sawhney] Another significant decision taken by the preparatory meeting was the approval of 12 projects taken up by member states to further South-South cooperation.

[Dixit] We have offered four very specific projects—projects concerning the utilization of solar energy, establishment of a gene bank and data center, the establishment of a vocational training center for African countries in Senegal and the establishment of a computer center for developing countries in New Delhi. We are, perhaps, the country which has offered the (?facilities) for the largest number of projects.

[Sawhney] The meeting also discussed the restructuring and the role of the United Nations. There was a consensus on the need for greater transparency in the functioning of the UN. [end recording]

Zambian Foreign Minister Delivers Message to Rao

BK2004034493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] India and Zambia are to expand bilateral trade and economic cooperation, particularly in the small-scale sector. The decision follows the talks between the visiting Zambian foreign minister, Mr. Vernon Mwaanga, and the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, in New Delhi today. Mr. Mwaanga also called on the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and handed over a message from the Zambian president.

Study Views Foreign Investment in Key Sectors

BK2004034893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Oil and power sectors account for a major chunk of the foreign investment approved since liberalization of the economy. An analysis of the new investment profile in 17 key industries shows that fuel and oil refineries have attracted the maximum capital inflow of about 1,683 crore rupees. Power sector comes next with about 1,500 crore rupees followed by food processing over 840 crore rupees. The maximum number of 332 foreign technical collaborations have been cleared for the manufacture of industrial and agricultural machinery and equipment.

'Reign of Terror' Aftermath of Tripura Polls

BK1904160093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The Congress-I says that a reign of terror has been let loose in Tripura after the victory of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] in [state assembly] elections. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said in New Delhi today that according to details available 18 persons, including 13 Congressmen, have been killed in the state in the recent violence. Condemning the killings, he called upon the state government to honor its commitment to protect the lives of the citizens.

Rao Previews May Cabinet Reshuffle

BK2004043693 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The prime minister has indicated a cabinet reshuffle after the current budget session of parliament which ends on May the 14th. PTI quotes Mr. Narasimha Rao as saying you will have a new defense minister after the budget session. The prime minister was speaking to newsmen at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] after the military investiture ceremony.

Referring to elections in the four erstwhile BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] ruled states, Mr. Rao said consultations were on with like-minded opposition parties, but declined to give any details.

Parliament Briefed on Bombay Blast Inquiry

BK1904102893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed today that progress has been made in investigations of the last month's Bombay blasts and the government will make a comprehensive statement in the House at an appropriate time. Responding to the demands made by several Opposition members for an immediate statement on the progress of the investigation, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, said the issue has international ramifications and any disclosure of the nature of investigation at this point may be taken advantage by the culprits. He said the investigations are at a sensitive stage and all the investigating agencies are pursuing the issue vigorously to bring all the culprits to book.

Earlier, raising the issue during the zero hour, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], said the Government should make a statement as contradictory versions are given by different ministers in the media.

The former prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, asked why there was a delay in informing Pakistan about the presence of the main suspects Memons there. Supporting the demand of Mr. Vajpayee for a government statement, several other opposition members criticized statements made by ministers outside the House contradicting each other. They also drew the attention to the reported statement of a Pakistani delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference that the culprits are not in Pakistan. They said the government can give information on basic facts without jeopardizing the investigations.

The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, clarified that he has not made any statement in Lucknow contradicting the home minister's views. He said the investigations into the blasts is moving in a planned manner and such issues cannot be raised with foreign governments without concrete details.

The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, clarified that the only point he made at the meeting in Amritsar yesterday was that all indications by the investigation agencies point toward Pakistan.

The speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, asked the government to take members views in account and make a statement on the issue as soon as possible. He suggested that the government may take the leaders of different parties into confidence and discuss with them about the progress of the investigation.

Iran

Underground Group To Try Kidnapped Official

PM2004080893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Apr 93 p4

[Safa' Ha'iri report: "Iranian Opposition Announces Abduction of State Security Official"]

[Text] Paris—A statement issued by the Iranian opposition organization Babok Khoramadin says that two of its units have kidnapped Brigadier General Seyfollah Sohangir, deputy commander of the Coordination Department attached to the State Security and Guidance Ministry.

The statement, issued the day before yesterday, described Sohangir as "a criminal person who has supervised and participated in the torture of a large number of Iranian dissidents."

The Babok Khoramadin organization, which first announced its secret existence about eight months ago, also said that it had carried out several operations against the Revolutionary Guard and some prominent leaders of the Iranian regime. It added that it had tried to assassinate President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the revolution's supreme guide Ali Khamene'i but failed.

The statement, numbered 39, said that Sohangir was moved "to a rear base of the organization for interrogation." It added that he would be treated in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva convention on the treatment of POW's.

Iranian sources in Paris say that Sohangir's trial will be filmed and distributed to world broadcasting networks.

Iraqi Official Cited on Normalizing Relations

JN2004093193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni dispatch from Tehran]

[Text] Dr. Hamid al-Kubaysi, Iraqi deputy minister of awqaf and religious affairs, has confirmed that his country is pursuing normalization of its relations with Iran, and that there are no obstacles from the Iraqi side to the conclusion of an agreement with the Iranian Government to allow the sons of the two countries to visit the holy shrines in Iraq and Iran.

In statements to our radio, the head of the Iraqi delegation said that he has come to Iran on the instruction of the president of the Republic of Iraq to discuss the normalization of his country's relations with Iran and to participate in the intellectual conference he is currently attending in the holy city of Qom.

Al-Kubaysi arrived in Iran last Friday at the head of a delegation made up of Iraqi academics to attend the international millenium congress of Sheikh Mofid, leader of the contemporary Shiite school of thought.

In another development, Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of health and minister of labor and social affairs, arrived at noon today to attend the regional conference of the labor ministers of the Asian and Pacific Ocean countries. The Iranian authorities accorded him a warm reception, according to informed sources. These sources added that the Iranian honor guard welcomed the Iraqi minister and the delegation

accompanying him at the border post between the two countries. The Iraqi minister was taken by land to Kermanshah and from there by plane to Tehran.

The visit by the Iraqi minister and of the Iraqi academics delegation before him could be viewed as succesive steps to normalize relations between Baghdad and Tehran in light of reports about booming trade between the two countries, to which the two governments are closing their eyes in the interest of the two countries.

Iraq To Admit Iranian Pilgrims

LD1904134793 Tehran IRNA in English 0543 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Qom, April 19, IRNA—A senior Iraqi official Sunday declared his country's readiness to admit Iranian pilgrims. Iraqi Deputy Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs Hamid al-Qabisi currently here to attend the International Millennium Congress of Sheikh Mofid voiced his readiness to discuss the issue with Iranian officials.

Speaking in an interview with IRNA, he termed presence of an Iraqi delegation at the congress as a sign of improvement of Tehran- Baghdad ties. He added that holding similar congresses in commemoration of great ulema who are accepted by Islamic ummah would help bring Muslim nations closer.

The 3-day international congress of Sheikh Mofid started here Saturday attended by scholars and researchers from 25 countries. Several holy shrines and sanctuaries are located in Iraqi cities of Karbala', al-Najaf, al-Kazimiyah and Samarra'.

Qom Prayer Leader Calls For Help for Azerbaijan

LD1604181993 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1633 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Report on Friday prayers sermons in Qom by Ayatollah Meshkini]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In his second sermon, [the Qom Friday prayers leader] Ayatollah Meshkini said that whatever happens in the world is a source of trouble. First, the new Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan. They have attacked and are advancing. They are openly committing aggression in a country belonging to others. This is unfortunate for us and we certainly condemn it.

It is very much like the aggression of the Serbs against the Bosnians. We call on our honorable government, the nation calls, to help them [Bosnians and Azerbaijanis] as much as they can and within the legal and religious regulations. People will be satisfied with this.

Second, the issue of Egypt and Algeria. Recently the Egyptian Government took a stand against the faithful nation of Egypt. The gentleman who is presently ruling Egypt has decided, according to the orders of the super-criminals, to suppress Muslims. Today Muslims are in prisons and suffer torture, much like the time of the late shah [taqut].

It is much the same in Algeria. We call on God to liberate the Muslims from the yokes of the colonialists. [passage omitted]

Jannati Sermon Warns Armenia Against Muslim Anger

LD1604201293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Second Friday prayer sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, member of the Guardian Council and Tehran's interim Friday prayers leader—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The other issue is that of Armenia which is itself related to the general global anti-Islamic policies. Wherever there are a few Muslims, they butcher them like feast meat. I do not know the reason for the enmity of the East and the West with Islam. Does Armenia imagine that the Muslim world will ever forget if it invades Muslim lands? Will the Muslim people forget? Can they keep the occupied lands for ever? Will the dear Azerbaijanis accept this injustice for ever?

It is wrong to think, with no regard to the consequence, that if one is strong enough then one should bully. If everybody is to use force, then go and live in the jungle. Stop talking and making claims! As I said before, this is a general anti-Islamic campaign and it is not limited to Azerbaijan. It is being implemented in some other central Asian republics as it is in the occupied territories [of Palestine], in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other places which you yourself know.

But I warn Armenia not to forget the enmity of Muslims. Today Muslims might fail to pay due attention because of certain dispersions and you might be able to do injustices. But this is not for ever. Unjustice leaves an impression. Innocence will one day come like a flood to uproot you. The cry of the innocent will one day make you regret. The tears will turn into a flood uprooting things. What are you doing in this world? Why is there such savageness in the world? Why don't they do something for the people? The situation is so bad that everyone is complaining. [passage omitted]

The weakness of the international community has further aggravated the situation. [But] this is not weakness and the international community is [not] America. American policy is to defeat Muslims and uproot Islam, except where Islam has an Islamic face. That is American Islam. It is of themselves. Not separate from them. It is no longer Islam. But it wants to destroy true Islam wherever possible. The international community is a tool in American hands to be used in the political balance and implemented by those in sensitive positions

in the United Nations. We hope for the speedy enlightenment of governments, people, and Muslims.

So, after watching their Muslim brothers falling prey to the criminals, they use their god-given divine powers of population, means, and blessings to come under one flag, and to act, to at least defend themselves and not allow these savages to aggress against the sacred limits of Islam and Muslims. [passage omitted]

Habibi Receives Irish Health Minister

LD1904153393 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—First Vice-President Hasan Habibi in a meeting with visiting Irish Minister of Health Brendan Howlin said Iran and Ireland would cooperate in various fields. The cooperation will benefit the two countries, Habibi said.

Howlin expressed satisfaction at Tehran-Dublin cooperation and said bilateral cooperation on education, medical and economic affairs would be useful for the two nations. Iran's Minister of Health Reza Malekzadeh was present at the meeting.

Commentary on U.S. 'Propaganda' Over Missiles

NC1804174093 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 11 Apr 93 pp 1, 10

[Unattributed commentary: "The United States and a New Uproar"]

[Text] U.S. publications have once again begun propounding baseless claims and disseminating reports aimed at strengthening the hostile atmosphere against Iran internationally.

One American publication claims that Iran is purchasing ballistic missiles from the DPRK that can be fitted with nuclear warheads. There are two calculated reasons for this type of propaganda: First, to pressure the DPRK for taking a stand against the unwarranted and interventionist posture of the United States, by which it is seeking to use the instrument of international pressure to interfere in the DPRK's internal situation; second, to capitalize on the venomous atmosphere whipped up in the minds of the public against the DPRK. By linking the issue of the DPRK with the United States, the propaganda can fan a poisonous atmosphere against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Washington has professed its apprehension about the increase in Iran's nuclear capability, asserting that in obtaining the Nodong ballistic missiles from the DPRK, Iran will upset the balance of power in the region. U.S. State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher announced the U.S. concern on the nature of Iran's relations with the DPRK, concluding that a visit by an Iranian military delegation to that country is an attempt for Iran to do more nuclear shopping. By raising the possibility of Iran's purchase of ballistic missiles, the United States has conjured up a poisonous atmosphere.

The current exacerbation of the inimical international atmosphere created against Iran, the DPRK, and Libya is part of the strategic policy of the Clinton government and occurs precisely on the threshold of a new round of Arab-Israeli talks in Washington. The real reason the Clinton administration is creating this atmosphere is to provide news coverage regarding the failed talks. The Clinton administration has repeatedly said the intransigent Iranian stance opposed to a compromise between the Arab countries and Israel is a factor for the talks' failure. It has been announced that if Iran were to revise its previous stance, the U.S. policy could change.

There is no doubt that generating such an atmosphere is a calculated move to pressure Iran. It is for the same objective that baseless and unfounded reports are being disseminated by the U.S. mass media, which is geared to furthering U.S. propaganda.

In the past, especially in the last 15 years, Iran and the DPRK have enjoyed very pleasant and expanding relations. In the current circumstances, no new element has emerged in these relations. As political observers are stressing, the recent policies adopted by the Clinton administration are, in practice, efforts to gauge the international atmosphere to furthering their Middle Eastern policies, the main pivot of which can be seen in the current impasse in Israel.

In recent years, all U.S. and Israeli efforts to put the discordant situation of the Zionist government in a semblance of order has encountered defeat. The main reason for this is the opposition of the regional Muslims to the stabilizing of the Zionist regime's position and the sacrificing of the interests of the Palestinian Muslims.

To counteract the intensifying Islamist movement, the United States is seeking to sow discord in the Islamic world and to drag Islamic countries into a political and propagandistic confrontation with one another, thus paving the way for isolating the popular movements and revolutionary governments. The accelerated activities by subservient governments such as Egypt are eloquent testimony to this fact. The bandying of various issues to project Iran as a danger-generating element for the security of the region, instigating the littoral states of the Persian Gulf to become hostile to Iran, and stepping up international and political pressure against Iran are all plans aimed to reach this end.

In the current circumstances, the United States is striving to muster all its resources to ensure a final compromise among the Arabs and Israel. The concurrence and compliance of the Zionist circles in the United States, Britain, and France in these plans and propaganda clearly indicates the extreme abjectness of the West, which will be transformed into a catastrophic defeat for them by the continued Muslim resistance.

There is no doubt that the probable defeat of their talks will throw the West, the United States in particular, into a state of total confusion.

Commentary Discusses Severed U.S. Relations

NC1804200793 Tehran SALAM in Persian 10 Apr 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "With Regard to the Severance of Ties With the United States"]

[Text] Yesterday, Friday, 9 April, was the anniversary of the severance of Iran's relations with the United States. This action is one of the important gains of the Islamic Revolution and can be considered one of the turning points in the history of Iran. We, therefore, deem it appropriate to mention the following points:

1. The current circumstances in the U.S. administration clearly indicate that the severance of ties with the United States was a correct step, imbued with categorical strength. The reason is clear: not only has the domineering attitude of the United States toward our country not changed, in most cases its stance has become even more harsh. It is not mere coincidence that at this very moment, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has, in an official and audacious statement, called Iran an insurgent. At the same time, attacks by U.S. agents in the region against Iran have intensified.

2. There is no doubt that this savage, wolf-like, and aggressive nature is the personal and constant trait of the United States. Despite the changes in its administrative hierarchy, the change in parties from Republicans to Democrats, this distinctive characteristic has not changed. In fact, it has become more accentuated. Therefore, the factors that culminated in the severance of ties, which were defined by our late Imam as relations between a wolf and cattle, have not only not been eliminated but have become increasingly heightened.

3. The U.S. Government's current arena of action has been extended further on the international level. Evidence of this claim can be seen in U.S. intervention in Somalia, its active participation in the compromising Arab-Israeli peace talks, its military presence in the Persian Gulf, interference in Europe and the Balkan peninsula, tension in the Korean peninsula, propaganda attacks against revolutionary systems, and dozens of similar instances of U.S. extra-territorial activities.

This unprecedented interference in international affairs is the concomitant of the dissolution of its rival system, which made the U.S. Government the world's only geopolitical [preceding word in English] superpower. The importance of this issue stems from the fact that Islamic Iran is currently being projected by the United States as the Soviet Union's replacement; that is, as an enemy. Any future relations with that country, therefore, will not only be fraught with hostility but the possibility of the spawning of untoward incidents on the part of the United States against Iran cannot be ruled out.

4. The black record of U.S. actions in the world, the depth of its animosity toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the miscellaneous accusations leveled by the United States, such as Islamic fundamentalism, have greatly dimmed the luster of the U.S. charisma, even in the opinion of its proponents inside our country. Those who advocated relations with the United States, and from time to time criticized the severance of relations with the United States, are now silent. They do not even mention the issue, especially because their overt and covert efforts in seeking to absorb U.S. investment have been fruitless to a great extent and the United States has not rallied to their assistance as they had expected.

5. The benefits and advantages of the severance of relations with the United States are far greater than have been mentioned above. It would suffice to say that if we view the fate of the Russian leaders with even a modicum of perceptiveness it will become clear how they were degraded and humiliated; how a powerful empire has sold off its prestige, and how economic ruin is stalking the people of that country. It would also suffice to say that the revolutionary people of Iran have proved that they can exist even after breaking off relations with a great materialistic power. They are living without U.S. aid but with honor and independence; without any complaints and have even managed to eliminate their problems.

6. The ultimate warning is that the United States has not given up hope of causing internal problems. The haphazard infiltration of U.S. consumer goods, and the appearance of well-known Western brandnames on the market are not issues that can be easily ignored. The U.S. investment is a serious threat against our country's economy and has unfortunately been inducted into the country by their inauspicious proponents. The imported U.S. goods are a major scourge for our country's economy, should not be popularized on the pretext of economic reforms.

Daily: UN 'Collaborating' With Serbs

LD1904110593 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—The morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Monday blamed the United Nations and its Security Council for being insincere and collaborating with the aggressor in the Bosnian war. It also criticized the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) for remaining silent versus the disgraceful massacre of Muslims there.

Commenting on the Security Council Resolution 819 which declared Srebrenica a 'safe haven' and urged the city defenders to surrender their arms under the U.N. supervision, the daily's editorial said that the Muslim defenders of the city have to leave their home and start a "vague future." It said that the U.N. and Security Council have a record of insincere attitude but that now for the first time in the U.N. history, the body has gone

too far in collaborating with the aggressors and exerting pressure on the righteous front.

The editorial feared that after the fall of the city, there would be no guarantee that the savage Serbs refrain from massacring the remaining Muslims inside the city or the immigrants who are being settled in the suburbs. "It is required here to protest and condemn the insincerity, incorrect and inhumane attitude of the U.N. forces and it must be clearly announced by the world community and the Islamic world in particular that the U.N. in this case acted as the 'aide of the aggressor' and collaborator of the savage Serbs accomplishing a job which the Serbs could not easily carried out."

"The history will never forget the grave disgrace of the U.N. and Security Council and the big disgrace will be registered under the names of the U.S., Russia, Britain, France and China in the history and in the minds of Muslim nations."

The paper also criticized the Islamic world for its inaction towards the disgraceful crimes and asked why OIC did not take any effective step towards implementation of an ultimatum issued by OIC members three months ago threatening to unilaterally lift arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims if Serbs continue with massacre of them.

"That fruitless and futile ultimatum encouraged the Serbs to commit further crimes. The U.N. acts as 'collaborator of Serbs' and in an effort to deviate the public opinion, issues useless resolutions against Serbs while the U.N. arms embargo against Serbs has best served the Serbs."

The year-old experinece proved that all the belligerent parties in the dismantled Yugoslavia could supply arms in every possible means and that Bosnian oppressed Muslims were the only party upon whom the all-out sanctions have been imposed. In fact the sanctions have been on effect only for Muslims.

The paper in conclusion called for changing of the present heinous situation and said that all, the Islamic countries in particular, are responsible towards the issue.

Radio on Measures for Dealing With Serbia

LD1904210293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] At its important session held last Sunday, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 820 with 13 votes in favor and two abstentions—Russia and China—on intensifying economic sanctions against the Federation of Serbia and Montenegro. That resolution, which was approved just 24 hours after Resolution 819 that called for the establishment of a safe area in the East Bosnian city of Srebrenica, has again given the criminal Serbs time until April 27 to choose one of the two existing alternatives: They should either accept the Vance-Owen peace plan, or vast international measures related to economic sanctions will be adopted against the Federation of Serbia and Montenegro as well as the Bosnian and Croatian Serbs. [passage omitted]

The Serbs have so far shown that they will not spare any efforts in perpetuating the ethnic cleansing policy in a bid to annex the lands of Bosnia and Croatia to the Republic of Serbia and they usually neutralize in an illogical manner [as heard] the UN- imposed economic sanctions through their allies.

For this reason political observers believe that so long as a full-scale military action is not launched by the UN to persuade the Serb leaders, one cannot expect that they will agree to the resolutions which call for the establishment of peace in Bosnia- Herzegovina. The government of rump Yugoslavia too in its statement issued after the approval of Resolution 820 strongly rejected it, noting that Belgrade will dearly defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the event of any attack.

In the opinion of observers, these comments bring to one's mind the Iraqi government's posture following the approval of UN Security Council Resolution 687 against Baghdad. The same observers believe that the government of rump Yugoslavia, instead of relieving itself of responsibility for the Serbs' warmongering in Bosnia-Herzegovina, should learn a lesson from the fate that befell Baghdad in connection with the acceptance of Resolution 687, and endeavor to terminate the bloody war as soon as possible by stopping its total backing for the Serb militiaman in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Presently, ground has definitely been prepared for subsequent measures of the UN, and in the event of the Serbs' insistence on continuing their expansionist policy, they would probably observe soon some tougher moves from the UN Security Council. In the midst, one should not forget that even if the Serbs accept the Vance-Owen peace plan, they will continue to pursue their expansionist designs within the framework of that plan. Therefore the plan should be so chucked out that in case of its enforcement, the Serbs may not be able to resume their expansionist policy in a new form after lapse of some time [sentence as heard].

UN Envoy Calls For End to Arms Embargo in Bosnia

LD2004102193 Tehran IRNA in English 0636 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] United Nations HQ., New York, April 20, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi monday called for the lifting of arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina [B-H] and blockade of logistic roads to Bosnian Serbs.

Kharrazi made the remark in Monday's meeting of the U.N. Security Council to discuss a draft resolution proposed by the non- aligned countries in connection with the Serbian aggression against B-H.

He said that as there were no evidences that the Serbs were inclined "even to think about stopping their attrocities."

"To remedy its past mistakes", he said, the U.N. Security Council should "not limit its actions to the mere adoption of Resolution 820."

He also called for neutralisation of the heavy weaponry besieging cities and killing civilians and enforcement of measures to place these weaponry under international control.

He urged the council to "reaffirm its support for the government and people of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the existence of their inherent rights of self-defence and the lifting of the arms embargo against this republic."

He suggested the enforcement of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 770 expeditiously in order to guarantee the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all parts of B-H.

He urged the council to establish immediately the international war crimes tribunal for the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law on the basis of provisions envisaged in Resolution 808.

Kharrazi said that the Serbs would never voluntarily, reverse their abhorrent campaign of ethnic cleansing and abandon their goal to create a Greater Serbia and had proven that they continue to understand the language of force alone.

Criticising the Security Council for not acting resolutely in time in the face of clear and blatant serbian aggression, he said that "an overriding majority of member states belive that the council has not shouldered its responsibilities with regard to safeguarding the territorial integrity of a member state of the United Nations."

Turning to the U.N. reaction to the occupation of Kuwait, he said "a policy of appeasement and leniency towards aggressors was adopted in the case of Bosnia and Iraq's aggression against Iran."

The draft resolution, proposed by Cape Verde, Djibouti, Morocco, Pakistan and Venezuela, condemns the Bosnian Serb assault against Srebrenica and calls for an immediate halt to the attacks against the city and cessation of hostilities throughout B-H.

It also denounces the Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)'s participation in the conflict and for its effective support to the Bosnian Serb attacks.

The draft also authorises member states, pursuant to Article 51, to provide all necessary assistance to the Bosnian government to enable it to resist and defend the republic's territory against Serbian attacks.

'Collective' Efforts on Gulf Security Necessary

NC2004065893 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 12 Apr 93 p 12

[Ruzbeh Buolhari commentary: "Iran, Iraq, and Future Stances"]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has said that Iraq alone can confront the Iranian threat against the Persian Gulf's oil-rich countries.

The Persian Gulf war ousted Iraq from Arab ranks and isolated it, despite Baghdad's efforts to regain its legitimacy and return to the Arab world.

In parallel with intensifying anti-Iranian stances in the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], instigated by Middle Eastern countries such as Egypt and Israel and by Western powers such as the United States and Britain, planners in the West have apparently changed their views on Iraq's position and envisaged a duty for it: Baghdad should adopt an anti-Iranian policy to return to the Arab world.

The many years of Iraq's war against Iran resulted only in immense material and human losses for both countries. This is what world arrogance wanted. Baghdad's decision to adopt another hostile policy will receive a crushing answer, just as its attack on Iran did. All it will do is make Iraq a toy in the hands of its Arab brothers.

When Tehran and Baghdad have agreed on various issues, such as pilgrimage to holy shrines, and when this process can ultimately lead to the normalization of relations between the two neighboring countries, destroying their ties will benefit only the United States and its allies, who burned Iraq in the oil war.

As two big regional countries, Iran and Iraq can confront the objectives of arrogance. Iran and Iraq need improved relations and joint efforts to rebuild their countries and for regional development and progress. Expanding relations between the two—contrary to what some regional countries think—does not threaten the security of the emirate members of the GCC but will also help to reestablish stability in the region. "Security" can be achieved only through the collective efforts of the Persian Gulf countries—and that in an area that is declared demilitarized.

Pakistan

Further Developments in Sharif Dismissal

Pro-Sharif Protests in Lahore

BK1904151693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1456 GMT 19 Apr 93

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, April 19 (AFP)—Pakistani parliament speaker Gohar Ayub Khan on Monday challenged President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's dismissal of the

National Assembly as supporters of deposed premier Nawaz Sharif took to the streets.

Ayub Khan moved the petition in the superior court in the nearby city of Rawalpindi, where some 2,000 of Sharif's supporters staged a noisy demonstration against Ishaq Khan.

Demanding the suspension of the presidential decree, Ayub Khan asked the court to allow him to reconvene the assembly.

A single judge bench accepted the petition for hearing on Tuesday, court sources said.

Street protests in support of Sharif were also reported in the Punjab state capital of Lahore where his supporters burned tyres and blocked roads.

In some small towns the business community, which had supported Sharif's economic liberalisation policies, closed shop in protest, news reports said as the Islamabad stock exchange dipped.

In Islamabad, the national capital, troops remained at key installations where they had appeared Sunday in advance of the late night sacking of Sharif.

Their presence was seen as demonstrating the powerful Pakistani military's support of the move taken by the president, who accused Sharif of engaging in "financial mismanagement and nepotism" in his 29 months in office. [passage omitted]

Some markets closed in Lahore and other cities to protest Sharif's dimissal, while the stock exchange reacted negatively amid rumours that some top functionaries of the former government had been arrested.

The official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said shares of several companies showed a steep fall after the dismissal was announced.

Official sources said the finance ministry had received numerous enquiries regarding the interim administration's policy on foreign currency accounts.

The ministry said in a statement that "the government's policy relating to the maintenance and operation of foreign currency accounts for Pakistani residents, as well as others, will continue unchanged."

Meanwhile neighbouring India, which has fought three wars with Pakistan since independence in 1947, voiced its concern over the developments in Islamabad and said New Delhi could not rule out a "period of uncertainty".

"We cannot remain indifferent towards the situation in Pakistan," External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh told parliament, adding that "being a democracy ourselves, we would wish to see a democracy flourish in Pakistan.

Analysts in Islamabad have expressed fears, because of the number of times elections have been promised but indefinitely postponed in Pakistan's 45-year history, half of which has been under military rule.

Postponement of Aid Meeting Urged

BK1904164093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1600 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] In view of the political changes, the Government of Pakistan has appealed for the postponement of the meeting of the aid consortium countries which was scheduled to begin on 21 April. A statement issued in Islamabad said that the economic problems inherited by the caretaker government demand a thorough assessment of the present economic situation and adoption of an effective strategy to ensure economic stability. The government's decision is expected to create a conducive atmosphere for negotiations with the aid-giving countries.

Bhutto: Dissolve Provincial Assemblies

BK2004031693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] In Pakistan, all the eight ministers and advisers belonging to the Awami National Party have resigned from the coalition government in the Northwest Frontier Province in protest against the dismissal of the Nawaz Sharif government. AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent, Suresh Chopra, reports that the Awami National Party was also a coalition party in Mr. Sharif's government.

Meanwhile, hearing on the writ petition filed by the speaker of the dissolved National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan, in which he has challenged President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's dissolution order will commence tomorrow before the full bench of the Lahore High Court.

Our correspondent reports that the former prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has demanded the dissolution of the four provincial assemblies also and holding of simultaneous elections on the 14th of July.

Diplomatic Reaction

BK2004061093 Islamabad THE NATION in English 20 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[By Anwar Sindhu: "An Opportunity to Ease U.S. Pressure"]

[Text] Islamabad—Diplomats based in the federal capital are closely monitoring political developments following the dismissal of the Mian Nawaz administration, speculating on the formation of an interim government of national consensus and scheduled elections may provide a "golden opportunity" for Pakistan to salvage its international reputation.

The choice of a foreign minister by the caretaker administration of Balakh Sher Mazari is being viewed as a key indicator of Pakistan's attempts to rid itself of the burden of being placed on the U.S. State Department's

watch list of so-called terrorist states. It is widely believed in the diplomatic enclave that the job has been offered to Pakistan's long serving foreign minister, Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, who is currently working for the United Nations in New York. Diplomats are convinced that Yaqub's international stature, coupled with the anticipated tour of the West "in the greater national interest" by world media darling Benazir Bhutto, could ease its pressure on the terrorist issue.

Another name being mentioned is that of Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan, who was noted for his presence at the presidency on Sunday night during the swearing-in of the caretaker prime minister. The princely foreign secretary is widely respected by locally-based diplomats for his softspoken manner, which has often led him to be described as a "dove" vis-a-vis his dealings with Washington and Delhi. For Shaharyar to ascend to the post of foreign minister, he would have to retire from the service a year or so early.

Diplomats are even speculating that Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations Jamshed Marker, who has impressed with some sparkling performances in New York recently, could be appointed as foreign minister.

All eyes are now on Benazir, and whether she will embark on a "promote Pakistan" public relations blitz in the U.S., Europe and the friendly Muslim states which have formally complained that Pakistani territory is being used as a sanctuary of Islamic fundamentalist movements. Washington may well be much more receptive to Benazir than it was to ch [chaudhary] Nisar Ali, whose visit is being described as "ill-conceived and premature".

Nisar imposed himself on Secretary of State Warren Christopher at a time when the Pakistani Government's operation to purge Peshawar- based Arab non-governmental organisations, meant to be involved in humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan, of the extremist element, had not yet gained momentum. At the same time, accusations of Pakistan's involvement in the Bombay blasts, and wild stories about one of the suspects in the bombing of the World Trade Centre having taken refuge in Pakistan, were still reverberating. Further, the Clinton Administration has yet to appoint an assistant secretary for South Asia in place of Theresa Schaeffer, so Secretary Christopher was reliant largely on the outdated and rather hostile brief she prepared. The result was, diplomats said, that Nisar was sent packing with a warning that Pakistan had three months to clean up its act, something which Foreign Office mandarins confirmed.

Since then, the ground situation has somewhat eased, making the environment more friendly for overtures by Benazir. Many of the Arabs targetted by the clean-up operation have fled across the Durand Line, while many of those detained have indicated that they will be accommodated in Sudan and Austria. Moverover, officials of the Iranian Embassy in Islamabad have offered sanctuary to the Arabs, although the offer has more to do with expanding Tehran's scope of influence in Afghanistan and its threat to the governments of the Middle East and the Maghreb than lifting the weight off [word indistinct]. Pakistan has also been vindicated of blame for the Bombay blasts by no less than Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh, although he repeated accusations of Islamabad sponsoring "secessionist" movements in held Kashmir and East Punjab.

But ironically, it is the Americans themselves who are looking for a way out from declaring Pakistan a state sponsoring international terrorism. Now that the process has been initiated, there is little that Washington can technically and legally do to backtrack. The growing realisation is that unless Pakistan can pull a "Benazir" out of the hat by the end of June, matters will get out of hand. American diplomats also fear that an alienated Pakistan would leave them with little leverage on India's nuclear programme, which they admit has continued unchecked since the Pressler Amendment was brought to bear. They are worried that come the revision of the non-proliferation treaty in 1995, India would sign on as a recognised nuclear weapons state. In the circumstances, they are looking forward to Benazir's visit as a chance to create justification for a fresh package of economic assistance to Pakistan, before the current programme ends in October.

Businessmen Plan Protest Strike

BK2004082693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0804 GMT 20 Apr 93

[By Masood Shah]

[Text] Karachi, April 20 (AFP)—Pakistani businessmen said Tuesday they were preparing a nation-wide strike to protest the sacking of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, fearing that his policies of economic liberalization would be scuttled.

A partial strike was under way in the city of Lahore, witnesses in Pakistan's most politically important city said.

But some said the government was trying to persuade the industrialists to hold off the strike by giving assurances that an interim government appointed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan until elections in July would not go back on Sharif's reforms.

The businessmen, however, met late Monday at Karachi Chambers of Commerce and Industry and decided to hold a one-day, country-wide general strike, said the president of the Karachi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Tahir Khaliq.

Khaliq said businessmen in this southern port city, Pakistan's business and financial center, were consulting with colleagues in Lahore and Islamabad to prepare the strike. They had not yet decided on a date, he said.

The stock market here had a record fall of 36.98 points on Monday as a result of Sharif's sacking.

Businessmen at Monday's meeting, which was presided by Mian Habibullah, the president of the Federation of Pakistan's Chambers of Commerce, strongly condemed the dismissal of the Sharif government, descibing it as undemocratic, said Tahir.

Ejaz Shafi, chairman of Sindh Industrial and Trading Estate (SITE), said on the telephone that he also condemned Ishaq Khan's decision to sack Sharif's government on Sunday after a three-month power stand-off.

Businessmen contacted said they did not believe the government's assurances that Sharif's policies would not be changed. They noted that former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, who has a close ally in the new interim government, had criticized Sharif's reforms.

Bhutto, whose father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto nationalized banks and industries when he was prime minister in the 1970s, has threatened to renationalize some of the state assets made public by Sharif during his 29-month government, including two major banks, Muslim Commercial Bank and Allied Bank of Pakistan.

Benazir Bhutto, whose government was ironically sacked in 1990 also by Ishaq Khan, accuses Sharif of handing over the Muslim Commercial Bank to a personal friend and fellow businessmen, Mian Mohammed Mansha, who is its major shareholder.

People in this volatile port city were mostly expressing discontent with Sharif's sacking, but a reinforced security presence was apparently successful in keeping the situation under control.

Soldiers were patrolling the streets in trucks and jeeps, and the government said a five-day conference of foreign ministers of Islamic countries due to start Friday would go on as planned.

PM Hints Sharif May Be Tried

BK2004091793 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 20 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Lahore—Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari has said that the Nawaz government is setting inglorious record of corruption and added that those who had robbed the public money would be held accountable. Talking to THE NEWS on telephone Monday evening, Mr Mazari said the former prime minister did not command majority in the Assembly, otherwise he would have proved it. He further said that the former government was the creation of the Eighth Amendment, but the former prime minister showing his ingratitude, declared a war against the same with the unbridled lust for having unlimited authority.

He said if Nawaz Sharif had resigned, even then he would not have been forgiven as he already had been granted forgiveness many a time in the past.

Mr. Mazari took strong exception to the uncivilised language being used by Nawaz Sharif and said the fulminations were coming from the mouth of the man who had nominated President Ghulam Ishaq Khan as the official candidate for presidentship only a few days back. He said that Nawaz Sharif tried to hurt the President through 12th Amendment, but he was forgiven.

Again he came out with the Eighth Amendment but the President refused to forgive him once again.

He criticised the former prime minister for his remarks about the caretaker government and posed a question that why had he agreed to become caretaker chief minister of the Punjab when the assemblies were dissolved in 1990.

He declared that he would stick to his earlier declaration to safeguard the freedom of press which he made on March 12, when he was tipped as the caretaker Prime Minister by Pir Pagara in Lahore.

He expressed his confidence that right thinking journalists will foil the activiites of the black sheep in the profession who thrive on yellow journalism and scandalism. Mazari said his government would welcome constructive criticism.

PML Elects Sharif President

BK2004093793 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 20 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad: With a unanimous voice vote the central council of Pakisan Muslim League [PML] Monday elected Nawaz Sharif its president unopposed.

Chief Minister of Punjab Ghulam Hyder Wyne, who is also secretary-general of Punjab PML, proposed Nawaz's name seconded by about two dozen leaders. After the vote the crowd raised slogans: "Wazir-e-Asam Nawaz Sharif, PML Zindabad and Pakistan Zindabad."

Presided over by the acting president Abdol Sattar Laleks, more than 700 councilors attended the meeting.

Former PM Nawaz Sharif claimed that the National Assembly dissolution and was a conspiracy against Pakistan and democracy. [sentence as published] He said people from Khyber to Karachi will teach a lesson to those who conspired against his government.

The action, the PML president lamented, has been taken by a person who himself is a member of the party.

He said he has been entrusted with heavy responsibilities to lead the party at a time of crisis and added that "I will come up to the expectations of the people." He said his government was running perfectly alright and the progress during his government was unprecedented.

Recounting his achievements, he referred to economic reforms, and motorway project. "The allegations against my government are a pack of lies," he said and added

that the President should have the courage to look into the corruption and malpractice of his relatives and sons-in-law.

He pledged to expose those who are not interested to see the democratic institutions grow. The council also empowered the PML chief to fill the vacant party offices.

Two new party offices of senior vice president and chief organiser were also created. Ijazul Haq is likely to be appointed as senior vice president. Currently, the offices of senior vice president, chief organiser, secretary general and finance secretary are vacant. The new PML chief will also have to nominate party president in Punjab. The post will be vacated by Nawaz Sharif. PML sources say that Ghous Ali Shah may be appointed new secretary- general.

Meanwhile, former labour minister Ijazul Haq, has intensified efforts to take other parties to form a new alliance. He met Amir of Jamaat-e-Eslami Qazi Hussain Ahmed on Monday and discussed matters pertaining to future strategy.

Talking to The News, Ijazul Haq said he will also meet secretary- general of the JUI(F) [Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam] Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Maulana Samiul Haq, and Maulana Niazi of the JUP [Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Pakistan] (Niazi).

He said he has also met Senator Iqbal Ahmed Khan to convince him and other leaders to give up their differences and unite the party.

Speaker To Sue President

BK2004093893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0900 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, April 20 (AFP)—The speaker of Pakistan's dissolved parliament said Tuesday he would take President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to court to challenge his dismissal of the government, while businessmen in Karachi were preparing a nation-wide protest.

Speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan, who effectively lost his job along with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif when the president dissolved the National Assembly on Sunday, told AFP his petition would be heard at the Lahore High Court on Wednesday.

"This is seeking the return of the government. The interim government is illegal and malafide," said Ayub Khan, calling the 78- year-old president's appearance on television late Sunday to announce the sacking "laughable."

Ayub Khan, who is still officially speaker of the lower house, said he would seek from the court, Pakistan's second highest, suspension of the dissolution order so that he could hold a session of the assembly.

Originally his petition, moved on Monday, was to be heard by a single-judge bench in Rawalpindi near here, but the hearing has now been enlarged to a five-judge panel.

Ishaq Khan dissolved the parliament Sunday to end a three-month power struggle with the 43-year-old industrialist politician Sharif. He named a caretaker government headed by Balakh Sher Mazari and said elections would be held July 14.

Sharif, who also challenges Ishaq Khan's action, was meanwhile preparing to take a six-hour train journey through parts of Pakistan to take his case to the people, officials said.

Ayub Khan accused the president of conniving with provincial assemblies to sack Sharif, and he predicted that the assemblies in the provinces of Punjab and Sindh would be dissolved within "two or three days."

Ayub Khan, whose petition names the president as defendant, said Ishaq Khan's move had "cost Pakistan very heavily inasmuch as there was almost a crash in the stock market," referring to a record drop of 36.98 points in the Karachi stock market on Monday.

He also said there was already a "rapid flight of capital."

Islamabad was quiet Tuesday at midday, though shops and markets were closed in Punjab's industrial town of Gujranwala near the provincial capital Lahore.

In Lahore itself, businessmen said a partial strike was under way.

Businessmen in Karachi said they were preparing a nation-wide strike to protest the sacking of Sharif, fearing that his policies of economic liberalization would be scuttled.

Some said the government was trying to persuade the industrialists to hold off the strike by giving assurances that the transition government would not go back on Sharif's reforms. But they said they were not ready to believe the assurances.

The president of the Karachi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Tahir Khaliq said businessmen in the southern port city, Pakistan's business and financial center, were consulting with colleagues in Lahore and Islamabad to prepare the strike. They had not yet decided on a date, he said.

Businessmen contacted there noted that former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, whose close aide, Farooq Leghari, is in the new interim government, had criticized Sarif's reforms.

Newspapers said Leghari has been assigned the Finance Ministry portfolio.

Bhutto, whose father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto nationalized banks and industries when he was prime minister in the 1970s, has threatened to renationalize some of the state assets made public by Sharif during his 29-month government, including two major banks, Muslim Commerial Bank and Allied Bank of Pakistan.

Benazir Bhutto, whose government was ironically sacked in 1990 also by Ishaq Khan, accuses Sharif of handing over the Muslim Commercial Bank to a personal friend and fellow businessmen, Mian Mohammed Mansha, who is the major shareholder in the bank.

Sources at the World Bank meanwhile said a meeting of donor countries in Paris on Thursday had been postponed indefinitely at the request of the new interim government.

Sharif: President 'American Stooge'

BK2004100193 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 20 Apr 93 pp 1, 5

[Text] Islamabad—Deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif wasted no time in announcing his election campaign and vowed to board "Awami Express" from Rawalpindi to Lahore as a first step to reach the masses. He was addressing a public rally ouside Lal Haveli here on Monday.

In his first public address after his removal from premiership Nawaz claimed that he and his party would again sweep the next elections. He said: "No political party can resist us and we will win the election unopposed."

He accused the president of hatching conspiracies against stability and solidarity of Pakistan. Nawaz said that he (GIK) [Ghulam Ishaq Khan] became the member of the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] but he himself murdered the party. He said had the conspiracy been hatched against his government we would have remained silent, but this was intrigue against Pakistan nation and, therefore we have to resist it. "President cannot face the people that is why he never raised his eyes during his address and made an ugly speech," Nawaz remarked angrily.

The former prime minister alleged that president himself was involved in wrong doing and he and his son-in-laws were known to everyone. He declared that "one man rule" is not acceptable to him and warned Ishaq of consequences.

Defending his policies Nawaz said that even a former US president, Richard Nixon, had praised his (Nawaz) services to the nation. Referring to his transport scheme he said that "it is better that educated youths are driving cars instead of committing thefts and dacoities [robberies]. "I will approach you (masses) in every constituency and we will wipe out our opponents from the politics", he said.

The former premier dubbed Ghulam Ishaq Khan as an American stooge and accused him of conspiring against the interests of Pakistan.

Criticising President's address Nawaz said "he (GIK) objects to my transport scheme which provided jobs to thousands of unemployed youth".

Benazir Bhutto also came under fire when Nawaz Sharif objected to her support for dissolution of assemblies. Sheikh Rashid also criticised Benazir and said earlier one who insulted him by calling "go baba go" to the Assembly has now welcomed as "come baba come." He claimed that the masses will witness the fall of Ghulam Ishaq Khan soon.

A large number of police constables were deployed around Lal Haveli. 30 mounted police were present on the occasion. People dispursed peacefully after the speech.

The city, however, remained calm throughout Monday. There were no reports of any untoward incident. Educational instituation remained open and exams were being conducted according to schedule. Business centres in the twin cities also remained normal. Public transport operated uninterrupted between Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] adds: Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif said the present system needed a change and his party with the mandate of the people would bring in a new system based on selflessness and honesty.

He was addressing a public rally outside the Lal Haveli. This was his first public address after his elevation to the post of president, Pakistan Muslim League (PML) on Monday morning.

Nawaz Sharif said the politics of hypocrisy, deceit and greed deserved complete annihilation. Reiterating his commitment to the down-trodden he expressed his full confidence that his party would be given an overwhelming mandate in the next poll and projects like construction of roads and motorways, expansion of communications, allotment of state land to the landless 'Haris' will be continued.

He said the National Assembly session had been convened on Monday to prove his parties' majority but it was not allowed. He said he had established the rule of law, diginity and sobriety in the country. He said his government was not that of criminals the way it was dismissed.

The former prime minister said that he had been going to the far flung areas to see for himself that justice was done to the poor who were victimised by the rich but even this was not acceptable and was termed as propaganda stunt.

He said he was not against any lady but will fight the enemies of Pakistan until his last.

Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, former federal minister for industries said, the distribution of state land in Sindh province among the landless followed by distribution in other provinces would have left no room for anybody. He said this ceated a panic among the opponents of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif who started working for his ouster.

Referring to the demolition of Babri masjid in India he said the government of Nawaz Sharif projected the issued throughout the Islamic world in such a manner that protests were held everywhere against the desecration of Muslim monument of worship.

He said the Nawaz Sharif government categorically refused any compromise over the peaceful atomic programs.

Intelligence Bureau 'Sealed'

BK2004102693 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, April 19—The Intelligence Bureau [IB] was sealed late last night following the dissolution of the assemblies, it was learnt.

The Army has been deployed at the the IB. Director Intelligence Bureau Brigadier (Retd) Imtiaz who was a confidant of the former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had already resigned on his own.

Party Withdraws From PDA Coalition

BK2004103393 Islamabad THE NATION in English 20 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Rawalpindi (PPA)—An important ally of the People's Democratic Alliance (PDA), TNFJ [Terhik-i-Nifaz-Jafria] has decided to quit PDA because of the alleged compromise of PDA leader Benazir Bhutto with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan after which the president established the national government of interim period by dissolving the assembly.

The decision to quit PDA was decided in the meeting of Central Cabinet and political cell of TNFJ which was held in the headquarters of the party. The meeting chaired by its chief Allama Sadjid Ali Naqvi thrashed out the whole political scenario prevailing in the country particularly the dissolution of the National Assembly.

The meeting cited that before meeting with the president the leader of PDA had not taken into confidence the heads of the component parties of PDA which was a matter of concern for us. During the meeting the TNFJ also deliberated the resolutions by APC [All-People's Council] and PDA in the recent past.

Editorial Defends Sharif's Financial Policies

BK2004105793 Islamabad THE NATION in English 20 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Nawaz's financial policies"]

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has accused the government of Mr. Nawaz Sharif of 'nepotism, financial mismanagement and corruption' as reasons for dismissal. His rather long charge-sheet against the former prime minister dealt at length with his insistence that there was not a single economic policy reform undertaken by the government of the former prime minister that could be lauded. Council of Common Interest (CCI) and the National Finance Award (NFA) have been 'relegated to a meaningless status' so alleged the president about two historic accords which finally resolved the inter-provincial disputes about water and finances. And his well-known bias against the policy of privatisation came out when the president used the words, 'they did not even spare the national shipping corporation, an institution of high national importance'. There is no doubt that privatisation and deregulation are two policies that form the cornerstone of reform policies of any qualified economist today. Monolithic state corporations run by bureaucrats, retired or in service, who have little or no business sense to either ascertain or, indeed, to fully realise the potential for profits, are no longer supported. But at the same time it is relevant to point out that the privatisation methodology, adhered to by the chairman of the privatisation commission, Mr. Saeed Qadir, was not transparent and was creating monopolies. But these are problems of methodology and not policy.

It is obvious the economic thinking of Ghulam Ishaq Khan is widely divergent from that of Mr Nawaz Sharif. The former belongs to a school of thought that has had no new subscribers since over 40 years ago. And Mr Nawaz Sharif has been propagating those economic policies that can see the country entering the twenty-first century with confidence. There is, prehaps, every indication that corruption was as much part of the system of the Nawaz Sharif government as that of previous governments. Charges that the scale of corruption rose to unprecedented heights during the premiership of Nawaz Sharif have yet to be made to stick. But what is obvious today is that the dissolving of the National Assembly has led to a collapse of the stock market and might well lead to lower foreign investment than ever in our history. In effect the president does seem to have derailed the entire economic process and one can only hope that the caretaker government will take measures to put the economy on its tracks and continue the privatisation and deregulation policy which despite difference in emphasis has been a bipartisan plank.

Zaki Welcomes Indian Statement on Bombay Blasts

BK1804113493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Pakistan has welcomed the statement of the Indian foreign minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, in which he said investigations have not provided any concrete proof of Pakistan's involvement in the recent bomb blasts in Bombay. The secretary general of foreign affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki, said in Islamabad today that the statement of the Indian foreign minister contradicts wide allegations leveled by several Indian leaders against Pakistan. It also vindicates Pakistan's stand that accusations were politically motivated to shift the blame to Pakistan without justification.

The secretary general however regretted that the Indian foreign minister in the same breath repeated his allegations of Pakistan's alleged support to militants in

Kashmir and Punjab. He hoped that Indian leaders would stop making allegations and false propaganda against Pakistan and work for improving bilateral relations. Mr. Zaki recalled that the Pakistani prime minister made it clear to his Indian counterpart at Dhaka during the recent SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit that Pakistan was interested in improving the climate in South Asia and in resuming meaningful dialogue for resolving Pakistan-India dispute through peaceful negotiations.

* Pakistan Decides To Deport 74 Arabs

93WR0204Z London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Article from Peshawar: "Deportees To Choose Their Destination"]

[Text] High-level security sources informed AL-HAYAH that the local authorities have decided to deport 74 Arab detained young men to the destination of their choice. They also decided to provide those in financial need with their airline tickets. The authorities affirmed that the detained were given absolute freedom in choosing which country they want to travel to with the exception of Afghanistan.

Arab sources in Peshawar affirmed that 20 Arab young men were transferred yesterday to Peshawar airport to be deported while the rest remained in the central prison of the local administration. Those transferred did not have proper documents and do not work for Arab relief organizations.

The detainees to be deported are from different Arab countries. The list of detainees includes Iraqis, Libyans, Tunisians, Algerians, and Palestinians. The Iraqis and the Libyans have requested political asylum from the British and Danish embassies in Islamabad. The number of those requesting asylum was not readily available. AL-HAYAH learned that one individual from the Gulf was not allowed to return to his country of origin on the pretext that the authorities do not allow anybody to travel to or from Peshawar without a special permit.

Reliable sources said that the decision to deport the 74 detainees was made after a joint meeting of the different security committees and after the Islamic coordination council delivered a message to the immigration commission, which is headed by (Rustum Shah Mahmand), asking the Pakistani Government to treat the Arabs kindly.

The council stressed in its message that the deportees are to decide their destinations and they should be given a suitable notice to liquidate their businesses and sell their personal belongings.

Qadi Hussein 'Ahmad, leader of the Islamic group said in a press conference held two days ago that "Western observers attended the interrogations of the detainees while foreign photographers took pictures."

Pakistani Interior Minister Chaudhary Shujat Hussain denied the rumors that his government was going to extradite the Arab detainees to their countries of origin. In an interview with AL-HAYAH, he said that the arrest in Peshawar made by the local government and not upon new orders from the federal government in Islamabad. He also denied that his country received an official request from another country to hand over its citizens arrested in Peshawar. While commenting on the arrests and their circumstances, he acknowledged that the Pakistani police have "violated some laws during their campaign against those suspected not to have proper documents." He added: "We formed a fact-finding committee, which is also receiving complaints from the detainees. Anybody proved to be legally in Pakistan will be immediately released."

He also affirmed that no date has been set for his expected visited to Egypt, and the schedule for his visit has not been specified yet. He denied that his country has received an official request from Cairo to hand over some Egyptian citizens suspected to be affiliated to the Egyptian al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group].

He added that the visit of Chaudhary Nasir Ali Khan, minister of petroleum and adviser to the Pakistani prime minister, to the United States "was not a failure and actually achieved considerable success in closing the gap between the viewpoints of both sides." He dismissed the notion that the American Administration would declare Pakistan a terrorist country or a country that sponsors terrorism. He added: "An Interior Ministry committee was formed to investigate the Indian claims that the explosions in New Delhi a month ago were committed by persons who later fled to Pakistan." He added that the Pakistani Government is ready to cooperate with India, as well as with any other country, in such issues as soon as any information becomes available.

Senate Chairman Returns From DPRK

BK2004080193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad returned to Islamabad last night after a visit to the DPRK. During his visit, Wasim Sajjad held talks with the DPRK prime minister and exchanged views with him on various matters of mutual interest. He briefed the DPRK prime minister about the situation in Occupied Kashmir. Soon after his return, he visited the Turkish Embassy and expressed condolences on the death of Turgut Ozal.

Troops Depart for Somalia on UN Mission

BK1904145493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Another batch of over 300 Pakistani troops left Rawalpindi for Somalia by a special flight. The troops will join the UN Peacekeeping Forces in Somalia. This batch of troops will form part of the Pakistani brigade to

be stationed in the Somalian capital, Mogadishu. Pakistani troops already working under the auspices of the United Nations in Somalia escorted food and medical aid convoys into the capital, Mogadishu, to bring relief to the starving people. A ship carrying aid for Somalia has arrived at Mogadishu's harbor. Relief goods were distributed to the city's residents. The Pakistani troops are part of the UN-led multinational force which arrived in Somalia in December 1992 to restore order after two years of killing and famine and to protect food relief from looting bandits.

Zairean Diplomat Arrested for Heroin Possession

BK1904101593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 19 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Islamabad—The Airport Customs reportedly arrested a diplomat of Zaire and recovered eight kilograms of heroin, worth million of rupees, here at Islamabad International Airport, said an officer on Sunday.

The Customs said the diplomat was deployed at Poland. A case has been registered against the accused under the Customs Act and the Hadood Ordinance [crime punishable under Islamic law].

According to the law-enforcement agency, the diplomat threatened a Customs official who wanted to check his passport and baggage.

The official, however, insisted and later recovered heroin from the diplomat's baggage and the pockets of his coat.

During the preliminary investigation, the accused said he visited the country on April 7 and stayed only for three days.

He received the heroin in the Blue Area, Islamabad. The Customs officer said the heroin was made of Afghanistan as its packets were bearing the stamps of an Afghani province. Further investigation is under way.

Poppy Cultivation Increases in Tribal Belt

BK1904095593 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] Claims of the government to control poppy cultivation in the tribal belt particularly in Bajaur Agency notwithstanding, the area under poppy cultivation has increased manifold.

According to a survey carried out by THE MUSLIM, the main cause of increase in the poppy crop was the indifferent attitude of the officials of Bajaur Area Development Project, a department which was established under the US anti-narcotics programme for carrying out development programmes in the areas so that the farmers could be persuaded to abandon poppy cultivation.

The officials of the department are reportedly getting huge amount for carrying development works to attract farmers by arranging alternate source of income for them, to give up poppy cultivation. But the funds are allegedly embezzled instead of being spent on welfare of the people.

This attitude of the officials has created unrest among the people. They have cultivated poppy on a very large area and vowed that they would not allow the government to destroy their crop in the presence of present officials.

According to a knowledgeable source, billions of rupees have so far been allegedly embezzled by the officials of the said department. The officials of the project are living like princes and lavishly spending money given for the eradication of poppy from the area.

The tragedy is that all government officials including political authorities are given their share.

During a visit to the office of the project, this scribe found the officials of the project including the manager extremely indifferent towards their assignment.

They take no interest in the work given to them. Instead they are promoting poppy cultivation in the area and giving misleading reports to the government.

"We should increase poppy cultivation as this is the only weapon we can use against the West and get money from them," an official of the project not aware of the presence of this scribe, said.

How can these officials work for the eradicatin of poppy crop. They themselves want increase in its production.

During a tour of some villages this scribe observed that no development work has so far been done there, and the impression given to the government about poppy eradication is totally wrong. "I saw poppy crop standidng in the fields." "We cannot give up poppy cultivation," Mohammad Aridn, a resident of Batin village said, unless we are provided altertate source of livelihood.

The people of tribal areas have expressed great concern and anguish over the government's silence and apathetic attitude towards the issue of the granting right of adult franchise to them and abolishing of black laws such as 40 FCRs.

Some 14 months have passed after the formation of committee of the National Assembly to prepare the ground for granting right of adult franchise to the people of tribal areas but no progress has been made so far," Amir Khan Uttami, a prominent tribal leader and vice-chairman of Peoples Students Federation [PSF], NWFP [North- West Frontier Province] said.

He regretted the delay in granting the right of adult franchise to the people of tribal areas, and feared that the government did not want to accept their demand.

Talking to THE MUSLIM, the PSF leader demanded of the government not to use delaying tactics and grant rights of adult franchise to them.

According to him, denial of this universal right to the people of tribal areas was the main cause of exploitation corruption and other evils in the belt.

The government officials are misusing their official position and mainting money as much as possible," the PSP leader alleged.

He urged the committee members to accelerate their work and recommend to the government to grant the right of adult franchise to the people of tribal areas.

He also demanded of the government to abolish black laws such as 40 FCRs which were being used to victimise poor tribesmen.

Another tribal leader and secretary general of PPP [Pakistan People's Party], Bajaur Agency has also demanded of the adult franchise to the people of tribal areas.

Talking to THE MUSLIM in Khar, he said that this was the best time for the government to grant the right of adult franchise to the people of tribal areas saying that after the establishment of friendly government in Afghanistan there was no justification for the government to keep the people of tribal areas deprived of the universal right.

He also demanded of the government to abolish black laws such as 40 FCRs.

The general public have also registered their protest against the present outmoded system in the tribal belt and demanded of the government to grant the rights of adult franchise to them.

Sri Lanka

Red Cross Official Killed in Jaffna Cross Fire

BK1504130093 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0950 GMT 15 Apr 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Apr 15 (LANKAPUVATH)—The International Committee of the Red Cross has brought to the notice of JOC [Joint Operations Command] headquarters that on 10 April 93, the vice chairman of the Sri Lanka Red Cross, Jaffna branch, Mr. K. Buvanendran, had sustained gun shot injuries and had succumbed to the injuries on his way to the Jaffna Hospital. At the time of this incident, Operation Suli Sulang was in progress and a curfew was in force in the peninsula. It may be that the victim would have sustained the injuries due to the cross fire where a major confrontation took place. It is also very unfortunate that Mr. K. Buvanendran had been moving in an area during the time of the curfew, states a special communique issued by the Joint Operations Command.

One Officer, 4 Soldiers Killed in Mannar

BK1504110693 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0955 GMT 15 Apr 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Apr 15 (LANKAPUVATH)—An officer and four other soldiers were killed when the heavy duty truck they were travelling in was ambushed by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists Wednesday afternoon, at a point between Pesalai and Mannar in the north western Mannar District, a spokesman for the Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH. He said that a curfew declared after the incident was still in force as government troops were carrying out a clearing out operation against the terrorists in Mannar island, where small numbers of LTTE cadres mingled with the civilian population.

Army Clashes With LTTE at Palaly Base

BK1604102493 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0950 GMT 16 Apr 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Apr 16 (LANKAPUVATH)—The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] were reported to have suffered heavy casualties Thursday when troops of "Operation Suli Sulang II" backed by strong air cover broke out from their forward defence lines south of the Palaly military base and cleared Pandaxtirippu, a small township south of Madagal in Jaffna, of LTTE terrorists.

A spokesman for the Joint Operations Command [JOC] told LANKAPUVATH that terrorists had offered stiff resistance from their well-prepared defences during the 11-hour operation which commenced at 0715 hours local time and ended at 1800 hours local time. But with the onslaught of advancing troops, terrorists abandoned their positions and fled further south. Before reaching the final objective troops overran a terrorist mini camp located just north of Pandatirippu.

Sri Lanka Air Force helicopters and fighter ground attack aircraft engaged three heavy vehicles bringing terrorist reinforcements.

After demolishing terrorist fortifications, troops returned to the original defence line at last light.

During the operation one officer and four soldiers sustained minor injuries. Terrorists are believed to have suffered heavy casualties.

Curfew Lifted in Vavuniya, Mannar

BK1804094693 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0838 GMT 18 Apr 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 18 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—A curfew that was imposed in the northern districts of Vavuniya

and Mannar to facilitate Operation Day Break (Himidirigamana) at 0600 Sunday, was lifted at noon on the successful completion of the Operation by a special army brigade striking at enemy targets in northern Sri Lanka.

A spokesman for the JOC [Joint Operations Command] told LANKAPUVATH that the soldiers had completed the two operations beyond Cheddikulam and the Bu Oya, speedily, with artillery support.

The terrorists had abandoned their positions and fled in the wake of the approaching troops.

The J.O.C. spokesman also said that a number of covert operations had been launched in Mannar island where the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was making use of the free flow of goods to smuggle banned goods across the shallow waters separating Mannar island from the mainland, in flat bottomed canoes to Veddithalthivu on the mainland.

It had been found that small groups of terrorists and their sympathisers had infiltrated into Mannar island and were smuggling items which could be used in the manufacture of explosives such as claymore mines.

The J.O.C. spokesman said necessary measures were being taken to interdict this smuggling traffic.

India To Assist in Scientific, Technical Areas

BK1504110093 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0844 GMT 15 Apr 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Apr 15 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lanka has identified 58 areas in which India's science and technology institutions can assist, Science and Technology Ministry Secretary M.C.T. Fonseka said on Monday. He said the identified areas had been sent to the relevant Indian authorities and their response is awaited. The areas were identified by the Lankan science and technology institutes which met recently at the Science and Technology Ministry. The identification of the areas and the follow-up action taken are being coordinated and monitored by a 3- member committee headed by Mr. Fonseka, Prof. K.K.K.Y. Perera and Dr. A.M. Mubarak are the other members.

The areas identified include biological control of malaria and filaria, tissue culture techniques for multiplication of elite species for forestry, horticulture and floriculture, providing access to Indian satellite weather data, providing India's marine satellite information service data which identifies fish concentration in the Indian Ocean, helping Sri Lanka to set up a computer and communication network, combined research on the use of indigenous, medicinal plants and herbs and the setting up of an institute of technology in Sri Lanka. These were the areas that come under the agreement reached recently at the January meeting of the Indo-Sri Lanka science and technology sub-commission, Mr. Fonseka said.

President Returns From Bangladesh, India

BK1604111893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa returned home last night after attending the Dhaka SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation] summit and the subsequent visit to India. At the seventh SAARC summit, the president told the regional leaders that their aim should be to eradicate poverty from all member countries by the turn of the century. He also outlined proposals to improve living standards of the people of the region and to promote cooperation among South Asian nations and focused on the need to create a South Asian economic grouping. Regional leaders assembled at Dhaka commended the services rendered by President Ranasinghe Premadasa in charting a new course for the organization under his leadership. The president also held bilateral talks with the other leaders in Dhaka and later left for India where he declared open the Buddha Gaya Dhamma village. He also visited several places of Buddhist worship.

On arrival at the Colombo International Airport Katunayake, the president was received by Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge; Cabinet Ministers Ranil Wickremasinghe, A.C.S. Hameed, Festus Perera, Wijaypala Mendis, Harold Herath, Dr. Wimal Wickremasinghe, John Amaratunge, and Mrs. Amara Piyaseeli Ratnayke; State Minister (Lalgamage); and the Governor of the Western Province S. Shavananda.